Gunnerkrigg Court

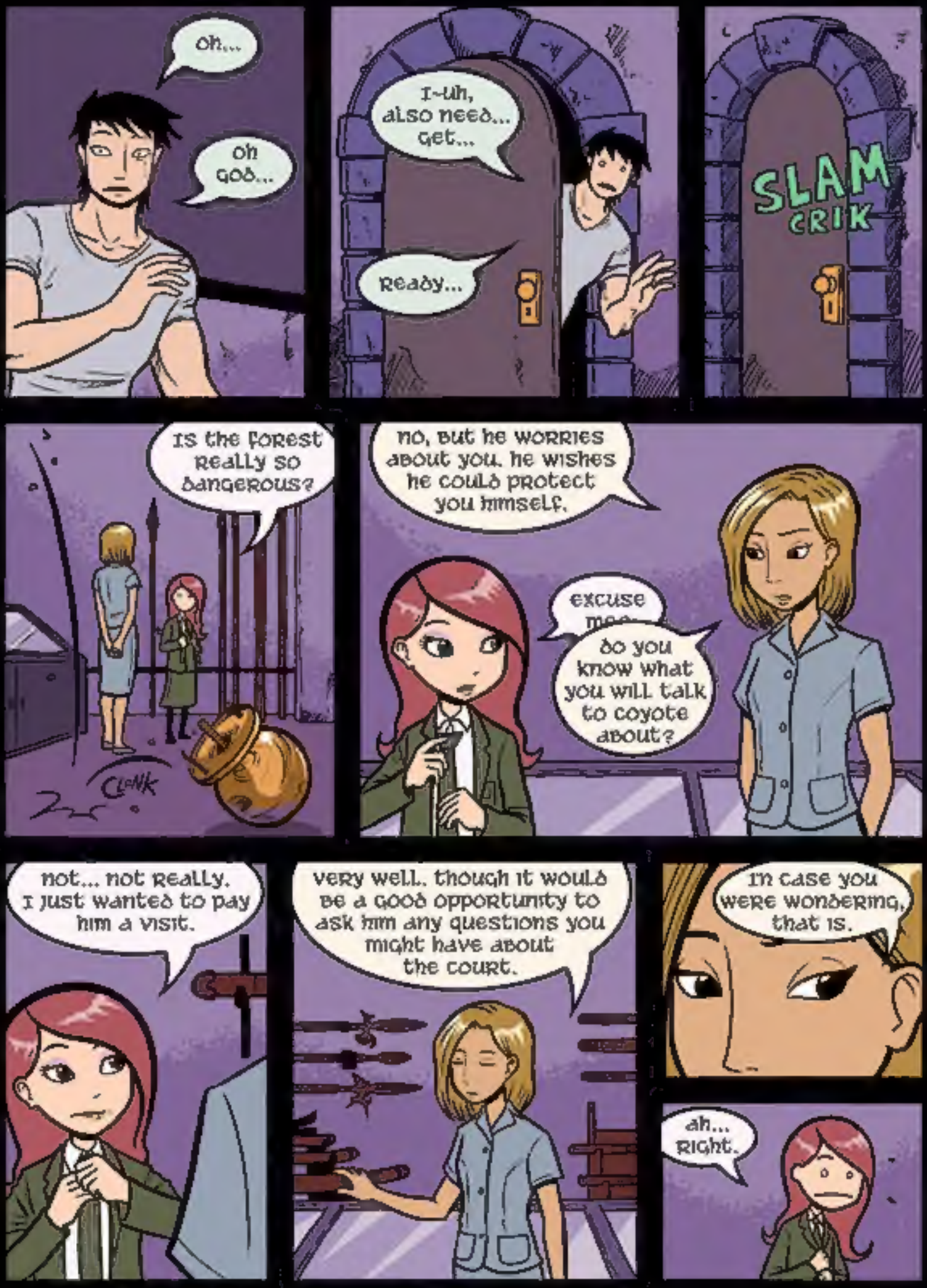
Chapter 20:

Coyote Stories

oh stop your blithering, child. a little dirt never hurt anyone.
Corneille
Le Cid
I'm just saying you're beginning to get a little grubby.
understatement!
you know my mother made that wolf toy for me. you should take better care of it.
surma made this body?!
hmmm, perhaps I could freshen up a little...

okay, how do I look?
super hot! you'll knock 'em dead!
why are you dressed formally!?
because today I am going to visit coyote in gillitie forest.
what?!
so soon?!
I... wuh.. you...
is there a problem?
...
no...
then I'll see you both when I get back.
remember to do whatever kat tells you.
guess who's going in the washing machine!

are you sure?
yes. I don't think that will be necessary.
okay, well.
at least change your tie for a clip-on.
no need to walk into the forest with a noose about your neck.
ahem.
try not to undress the female students, james.


oh...
oh god...
I-uh, also need... get...
ready...
SLAM
CRIK
Is the forest really so dangerous?
CLONK
no, but he worries about you. he wishes he could protect you himself.
excuse me.
do you know what you will talk to coyote about?
not... not really. I just wanted to pay him a visit.
very well. though it would be a good opportunity to ask him any questions you might have about the court.
in case you were wondering, that is.
ah... right.

ugh, haven't worn this getup in ages.
has anja shown you how to use your blinker stone yet?
no, she sent the signal up for me.
well, no need to keep them waiting.

I don't think so.
So you really need all those swords?
Formal attire. You know how it is.
For a dragon slayer?
Haha! Well, that's just an official title. Dragons don't really need slaying so much these days.

here.
take this.
at the first sign of trouble, snap this beacon.
wherever you are, I'll be able to find you and be there within five seconds.
I don't think there will be trouble.
humour me.
thank you.

evening, general.
hello, mr. ysengrin.
eglamore stays here. he is not welcome.

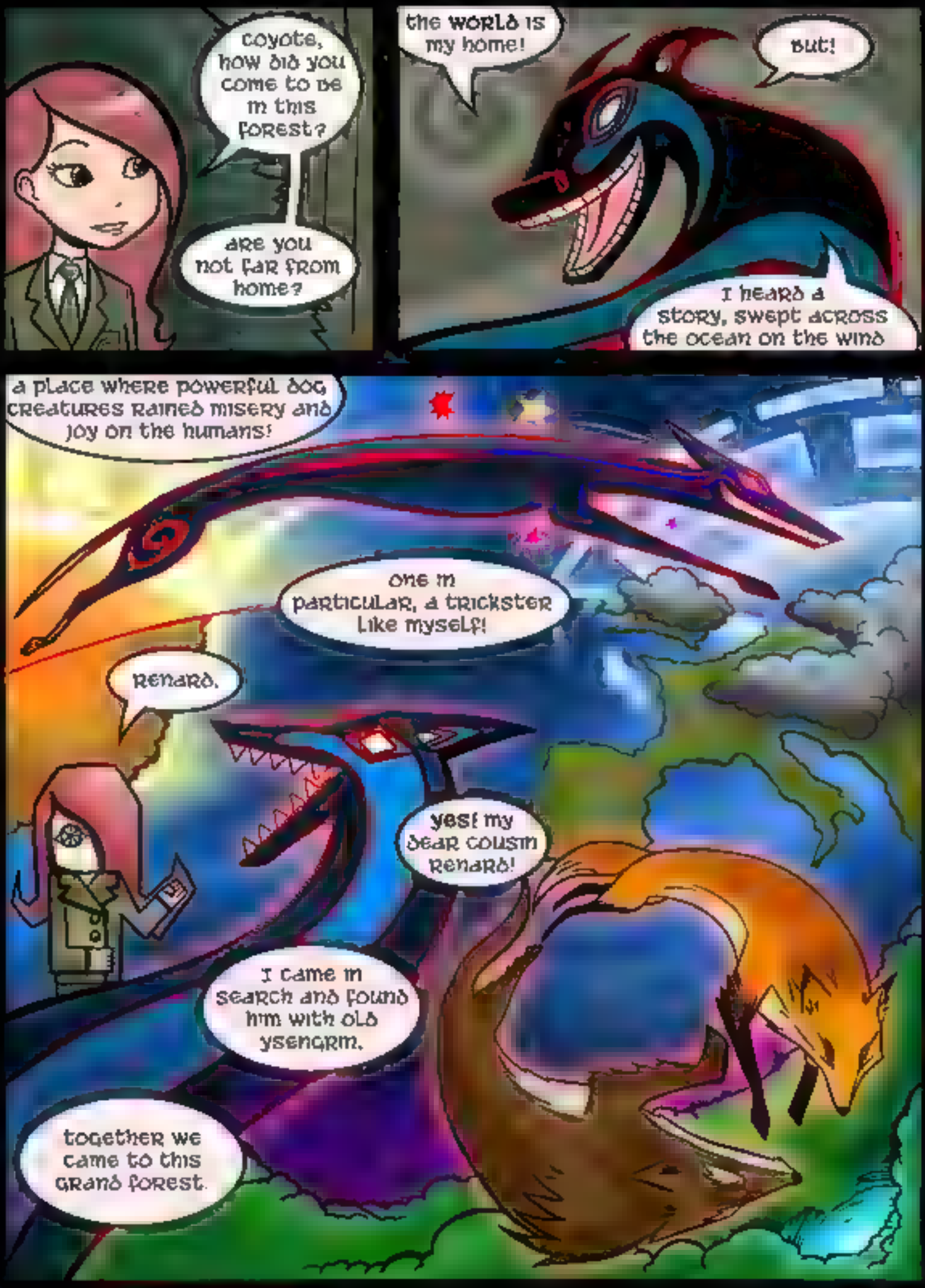
carver?
that's fine. I doubt I will be very long.
hurff. taking orders from a little girl, sir eglamore?
you. you will take me to coyote now.
...
Scratch Scratch

see the mighty trees, the strong bones of my body!
the rustling of the leaves is my laughter!
the swaying grass is the hair on my back!
the rocks and stones, powerful teeth of mine!
my blood, the water coursing through the land!
my ever watching eyes, the sun...
and the moon!

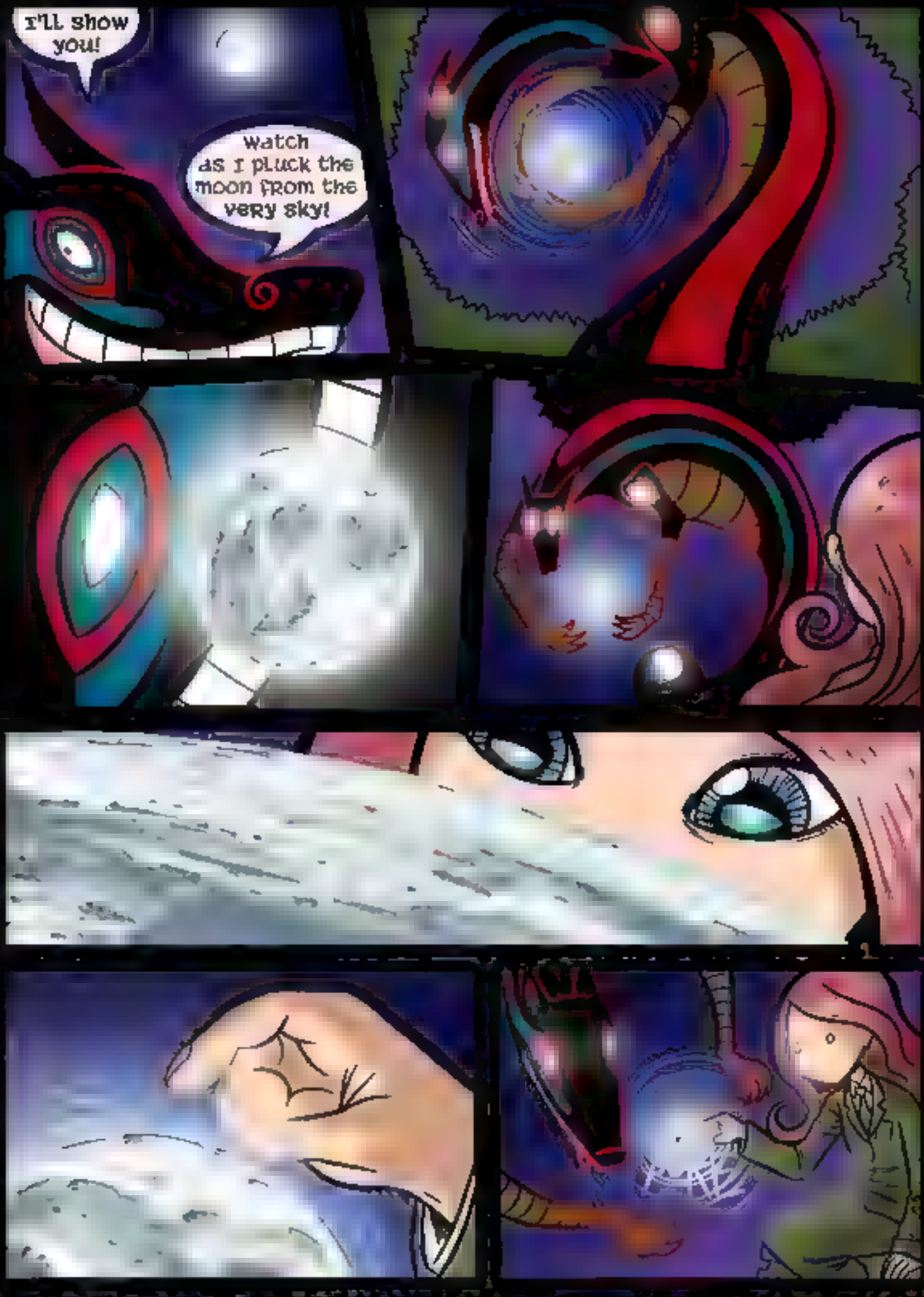
thank you, coyote, that was very nice.
you see, you see?! I told you she would like it, you old grump!
a masterful performance.
yes, I thnk so too.
yes
FIRE HEAD GIRL!
welcome to my forest!
no doubt your mother has told you about our time together!
I'm sorry
she told me stories about you, but I did not know you were friends
ah, tell me which of these stories you like!

she told me how you placed the stars in the sky
hahahaha!
look how messy they are! it is my fault!
I admit it!
I came across the great spirit placing the stars in the sky one by one...
how boring!
so I told him I would help and began to make beautiful pictures of all the great beasts!
but I am too wise and clever to be entertained by such a menial task for long!
but look! I forgot to make a picture of myself!
I howl at them all the time in my sadness!
I threw the rest of the stars in the sky and ran about my business!
ar! ar ar! arrooo!
ar! ay! ee! ayay! ayyy! ip! ay!

she also said you were fond of juggling your eyeballs.
ahahaha! yes!
the pretty girls all love when I juggle!
the lovely surma would roll and laugh!
twigs in her hair!
dirt on her bare feet!
It is sad she is gone.
PLOP
we are all sad.
PLOP
all the people of the forest, and there are many
oh! um, thank you.
but now, you are here, and we hope friendship can be born anew!
I hope so too.


coyote, how did you come to be in this forest?
are you not far from home?
the WORLD is my home!
but!
I heard a story, swept across the ocean on the wind
a place where powerful dog creatures rained misery and joy on the humans!
one in particular, a trickster like myself!
renard.
yes! my dear cousin renard!
I came in search and found him with old ysengrm.
together we came to this grand forest.

this was to be a place of great power, a place of union!
but all we found was a terrible squabble!
the humans sought to tame the powerful creatures!
with my mighty paw I scored the earth and so the court and the forest were divided!
you made the annan waters and the ravine?
yes! I am very powerful, of course
of course.


I'll show you!
watch as I pluck the moon from the very sky!

CHOMP!
w-was that real?
haha! you experienced it, didn't you? what do you think?
you divided the court and the forest
but now there is a bridge across the annan waters
the court had done something to the flowing river, and nothing could cross.
eventually a bridge was made, on their terms.
you see, humans sometimes grow weary of their life.
they yearn for something different.
a new life.
with new bodies.
and, when they shun their humanity, we welcome them here.

Is this the test I've heard about?
there is a test, yes
some creatures of the forest wish to be human, also.
traitors
haha, it was ysengrim's idea to no longer allow humans into the forest
not without giving up their bodies first.
have humans lived here before, then?
oh yes! when I divided the forest and court there were some humans and creatures living on both sides
many of the current inhabitants are descended from those humans

Why were you looking for Renard in the first place? Why bring him here?
I sought to make him m to a powerful being such as myself!
I wanted to give him my powers, but he would refuse!
he didn't want anything that would widen the gap between himself and the friends he had made amongst the humans.
But why is Reynardine being held at the court?
Why, he killed that young man, of course!

I... I assume Reynardine has killed many people.
FLICK
oh no! no, no, nooo!
Renard Loooves humans!
not like ysengrim, who would destroy the lot of them, given the chance
he tried to kill me, once. he tried to take my body.
well now that doesn't sound right!
not you, of all people!
why, I wouldn't be surprised if he cared deeply for you!
you see, Renard fell desperately in love with Surma!

after all these years of refusing my powers, he comes to me one day and asks for the ability to take bodies!
overjoyed, I give him the power, but he soon runs away!
he steals the body of a handsome young man and disappears into the court, looking to woo the fiery surma.
how we cried!
we heard he was captured. tricked!
one of my own, tricked!
and I did not see him again 'til last summer.
what a surprise to find him with the daughter of surma!

the power I gave renard was imperfect
why, I could control anything with eyes and leave them unharmed when I'd had my fun!
but for some reason, when renard had the ability, any body he took that was not his own would die when it was used up.
ysengrin too. I gave him power over the trees, but look how he shakes like an old man!
it is a perfect gift.
immeasurable in its wonder.
ysengrm loves me very much

coyote, can you tell me, what is gunnerkrigg court?
why...
it is man's endeavour to become god!
how is that for an enigmatic answer?
very enigmatic. it barely answers anything at all.
in fact, it raises more questions than before.
hahaha!
aw come on, I can't tell you everything right away!
that would make for a boring story, don't you think?
HAHAHA

hmm, that is all for tonight, I think!
but ..
yes. goodbye, fire head!
please come and visit us whenever you like!
thank you for your hospitality, coyote
maybe one day I will tell you my great secret!
hahahaha.
hurff

haha, you should see the poor guy. he came out all curly!
he took a hair brush and was all
*Leave me [redacted]
hmmm.
welp, I dunno what you were looking for, but there hasn't been any irregular lunar activity recorded over the past few hours.
everything's the same as it always is
TAP TAP
I suppose it was just a trick. then.

huh?
Whaa??
that... that can't be right!
ah.
I may have some explaining to do.

Gunnerkrigg Court

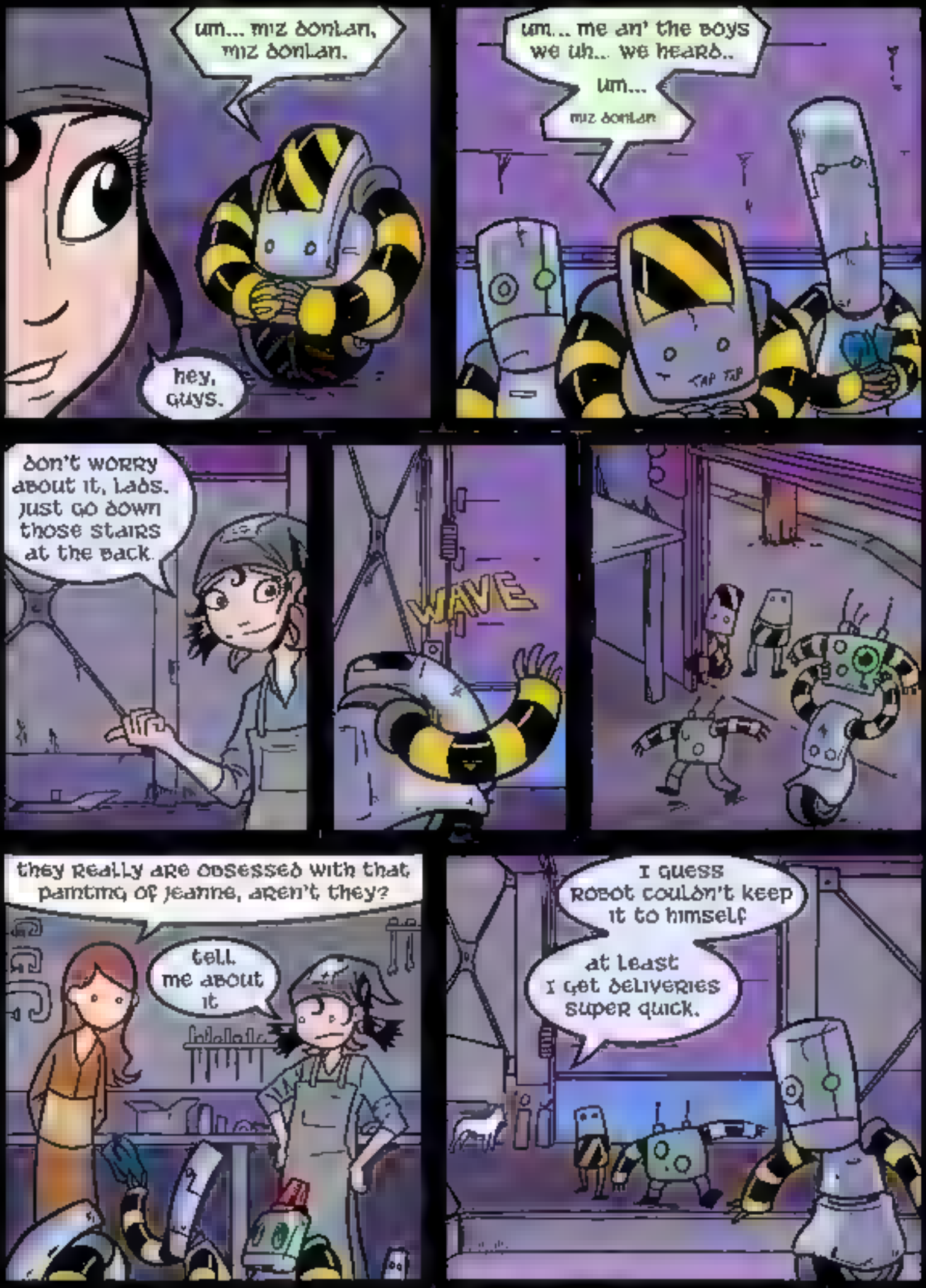
Chapter 21:

Blinking

Oh awesome, my cnc is here
set it down over there, boys.
ma'm.

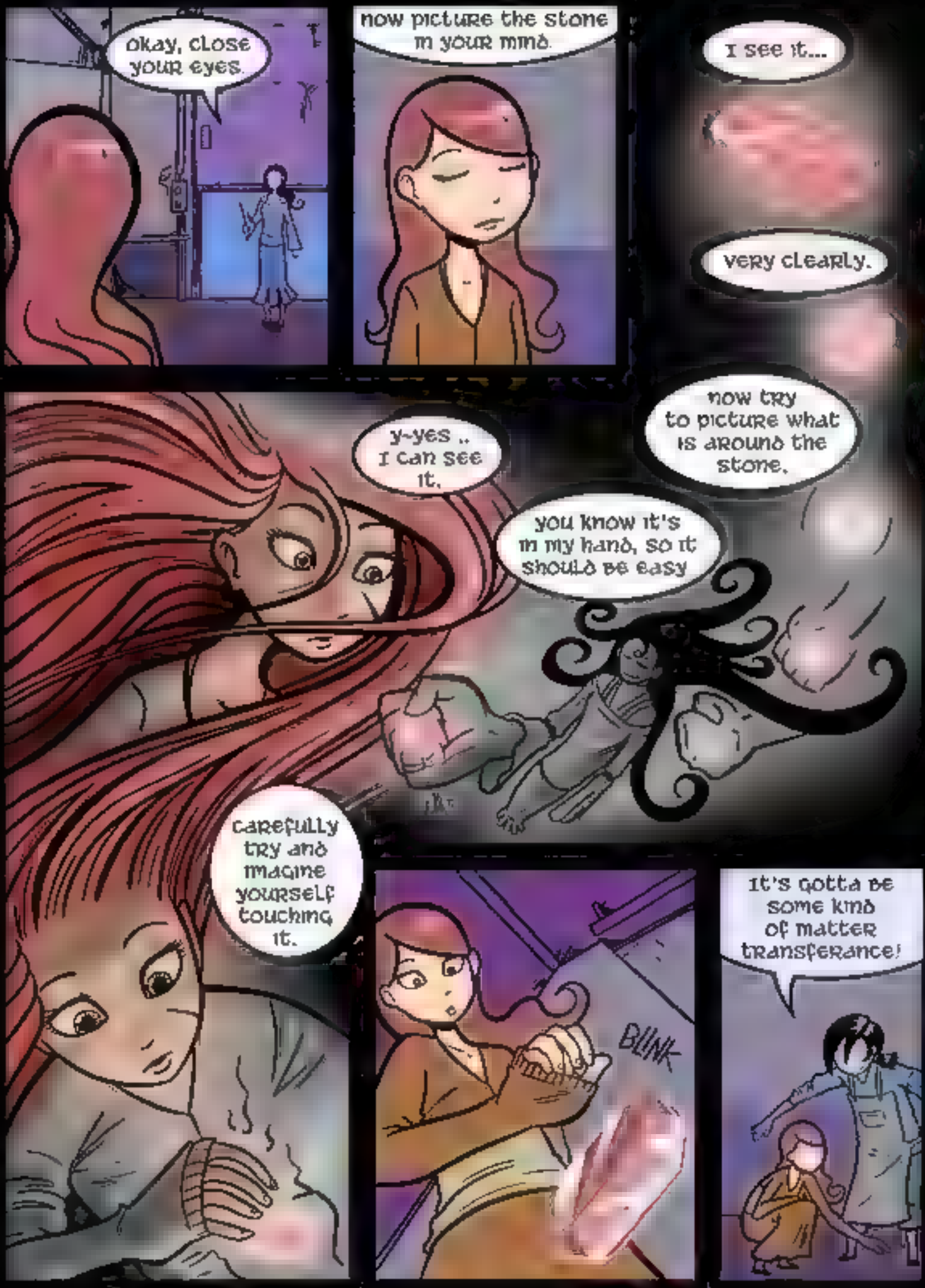
hmm nope, nope.
this isn't very sophisticated.
you are amazing, kat. I can't get my head around any of this
ah, it's nothing I just see the tools I got, and the materials, and it just clicks together.
ms. jones said everyone here has a special skill, so I bet this is yours
here.

oh .. thank you.
...
jeezum what's up with you two! you've been tip-toeing around each other for ages!
come on now, be friends again!
CLICK!
be friends!
click
click
...
...
Pat Pat

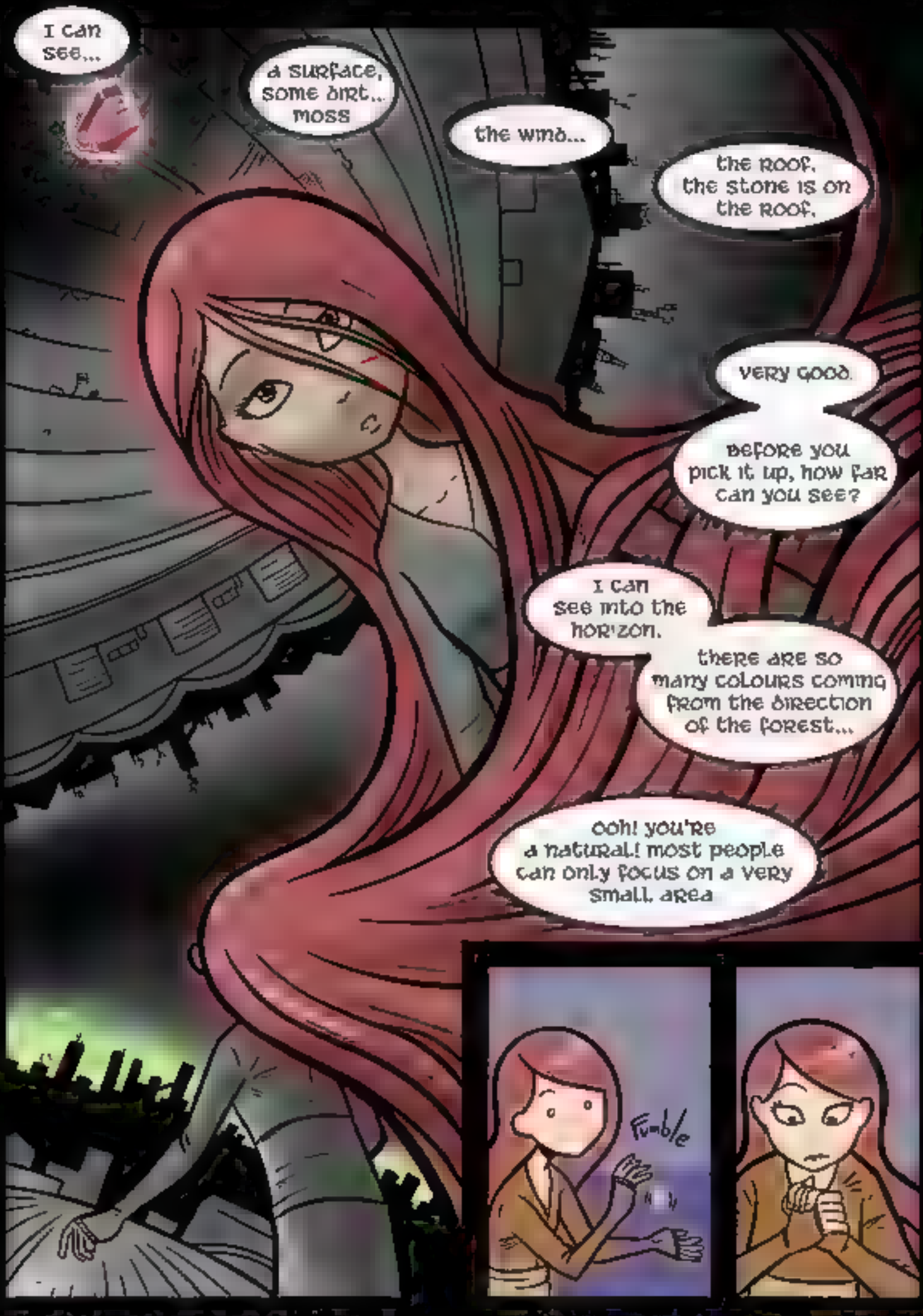

um... miz donlan, miz donlan.
hey, guys.
um... me an' the boys we uh... we heard.. um... miz donlan
TAP TAP
don't worry about it, lads. just go down those stairs at the back.
WAVE
they really are obsessed with that painting of jeanne, aren't they?
tell me about it
I guess robot couldn't keep it to himself
at least I get deliveries super quick.

knock knock!
mum!
hello, girls.
reynarâme.
anja.
hellooooo!
the robots still milling around to see the painting?
yeah, they're always stopping by.
robox is pretty awesome though
so! I think it's time to learn a little more about your blinker stone, annie. what do you say?
yes, thank you.

okay, first thing's first. did you know that you can never lose a blinker stone?
watch.
I left my stone in my jewelry box at home .
and yet...
BLINK
mommm! that's such a corny trick! you just palmed it
okay then, here.
hold on to it tightly
tada!
now you try, annie. Let me take your stone for a moment


okay, close your eyes.
now picture the stone in your mind.
I see it...
very clearly.
now try to picture what is around the stone.
y-yes .. I can see it.
you know it's in my hand, so it should be easy
carefully try and imagine yourself touching it.
BLINK
it's gotta be some kind of matter transferance!

very good!
okay, another test!
haha, okay, I hid your stone outside!
now, even if you have no idea where your blinker is, you will be able to find it.
just close your eyes
and see the stone.


I can see...
a surface, some dirt... moss
the wind...
the roof. the stone is on the roof.
very good.
before you pick it up, how far can you see?
I can see into the horizon.
there are so many colours coming from the direction of the forest...
ooh! you're a natural! most people can only focus on a very small area
Fumble

excellent! I knew you'd have no trouble with it

say, can anyone use one of those things?

a blinker stone acts as a lens for thought

some people can use them easily, and even develop their psychic abilities to the point where they don't need the stone.

fig. 1

fig. 2

but for others it's impossible.

jones can't use them, which is why she couldn't teach you herself, annie.

your father can't use them either, katja.

anja, are you a magician of some sort?

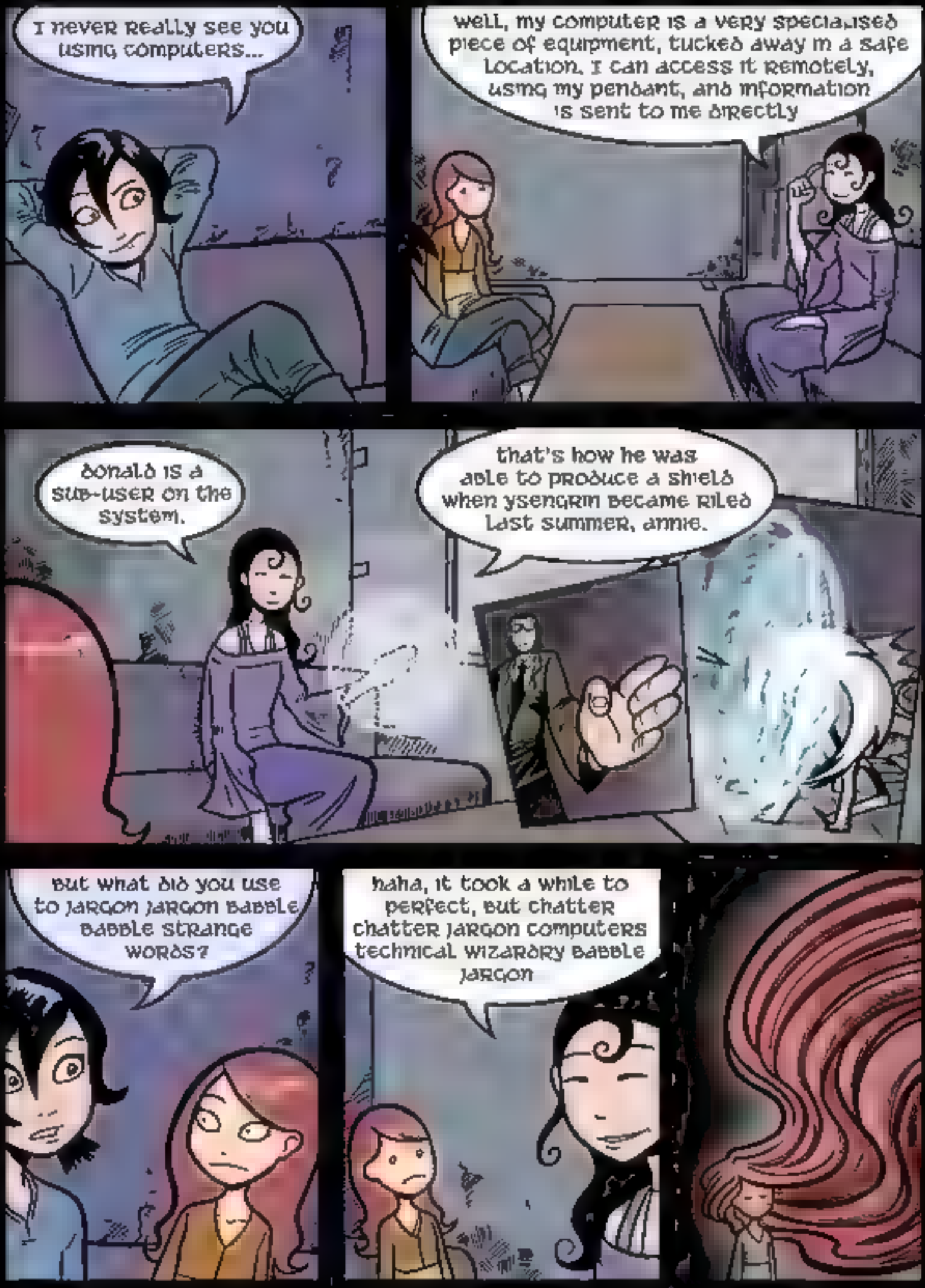
huh?

oh:

well, you were the best person to show me how to use the blinker stone.
and I've seen you do unexplainable things in the past...
such as when you were able to restrain Reynardine
and the pendant around your neck I've seen that symbol before.
oh... hmm...
...
why don't we go talk in the office?
?!

tell me, do you girls believe in magic?
heh, of course
yes.
what? come on, magic is just something that hasn't been explained yet.
but what would you call something that can't be explained by scientific methods?
take the blinker stone. under extensive analysis it appears as nothing more than a simple monocrystal, but it is clearly much more
okay, so there just isn't a process to explain how it works yet.
no scientific process, perhaps, but there are other methods of explanation for a long time people thought alchemy was a valid methodology.
others may call these methods "magic".
the court, on the other hand prefers to define them as "etheric sciences".

however, what you saw when I restrained Reynardine .
OR rather, this.
is a program designed to stop him using his body snatching powers.
a program?
specifically, this symbol is the program.
your father and I designed it together, katja.
huh? how can a glowing... floaty... symbol be a program? what runs it?
this pendant is actually a soft link to a computer I built. It houses the program developed to keep Renard in check.


I never really see you using computers...
well, my computer is a very specialised piece of equipment, tucked away in a safe location. I can access it remotely, using my pendant, and information is sent to me directly
donald is a sub-user on the system.
that's how he was able to produce a shield when ysengrin became riled last summer, annie.
but what did you use to jargon jargon babble babble strange words?
haha, it took a while to perfect, but chatter chatter jargon computers technical wizardry babble jargon

anja forgot to mention that spying with a blinker stone is not recommended.

Blink
um . people have been using symbols to invoke or ward off spirits for a long time.
that's right the principle is the same here.
james has a tattoo of the symbol, which protected him from renard in the past
mr. eglamore has a tattoo?!
yes. and your dad.
I tattooed them both myself
huhh??
what?
ah yes, good times. good times!

Reynardine's power was bestowed by coyote himself...
yet you found a way to manipulate it using technology?
well, yes and no.
my computer is based on work we did finding a way to control Reynardine
however, just like the blinker stone, there is a lot about the etheric process we just can't understand.
basically, we cheated
the computer is a hybrid of court technology and just enough etheric technology to allow it to work.
because of this, though, the court sees it as a useless system.
that's not fair. I mean, it works, right?
some say that isn't good enough. not if you can't fully explain how it works.

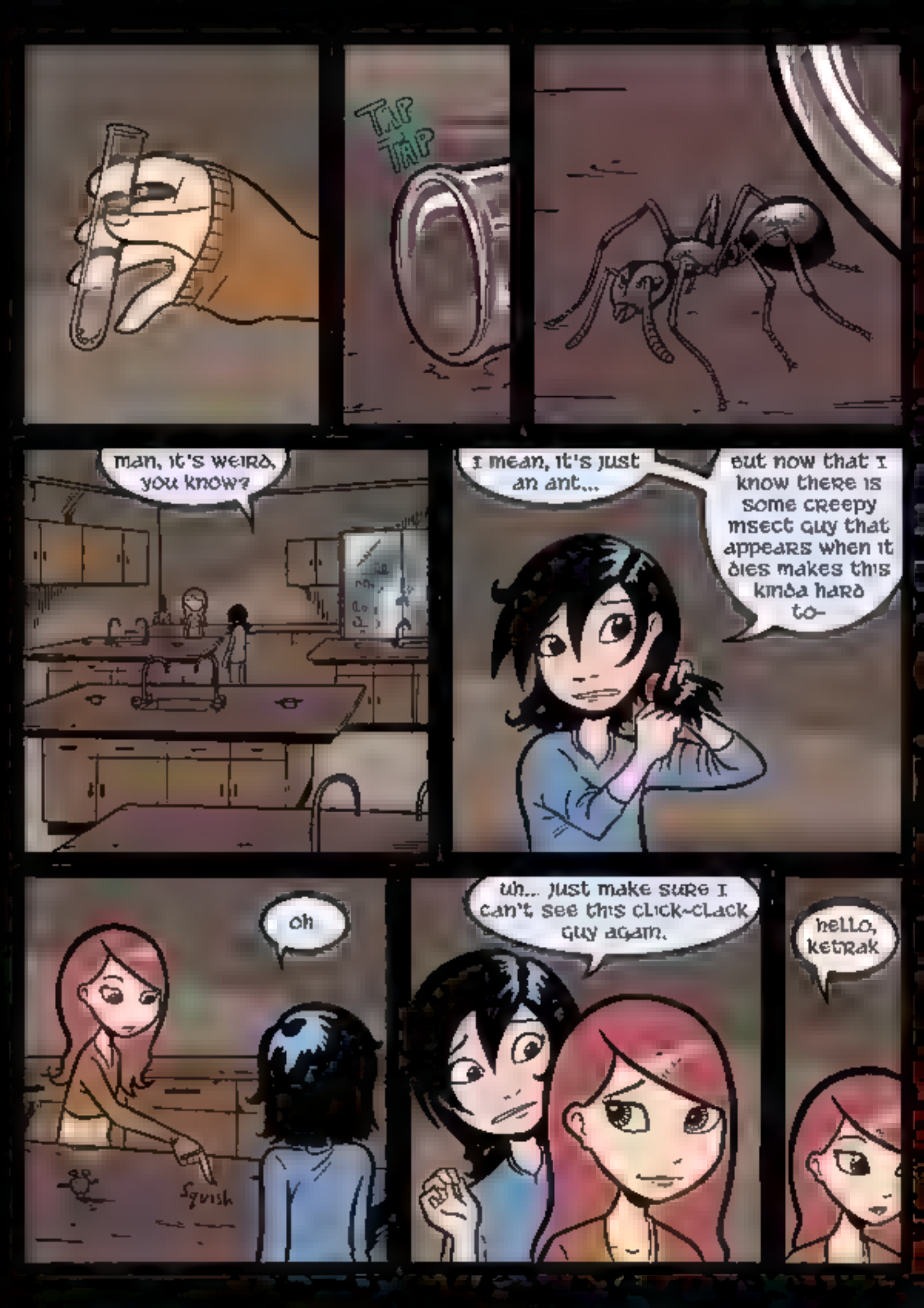
so, annie, I have to ask, who was the boy that gave you your stone?
um, his name is mort
but how did you know it was a boy?
haha! blinker stones are traditionally given between couples.
donald gave me mine a long time ago.
anyway, what say I show you a few more tricks?
oh maaann! I knew it!
I see.

ahaha! mort is such a sweetheart!
It has been a while since we last saw him.
yay!
oh, hey guys!
what uh... what brings you round my neck o' the woods?
hehe
I suppose you think this was funny.
huh?

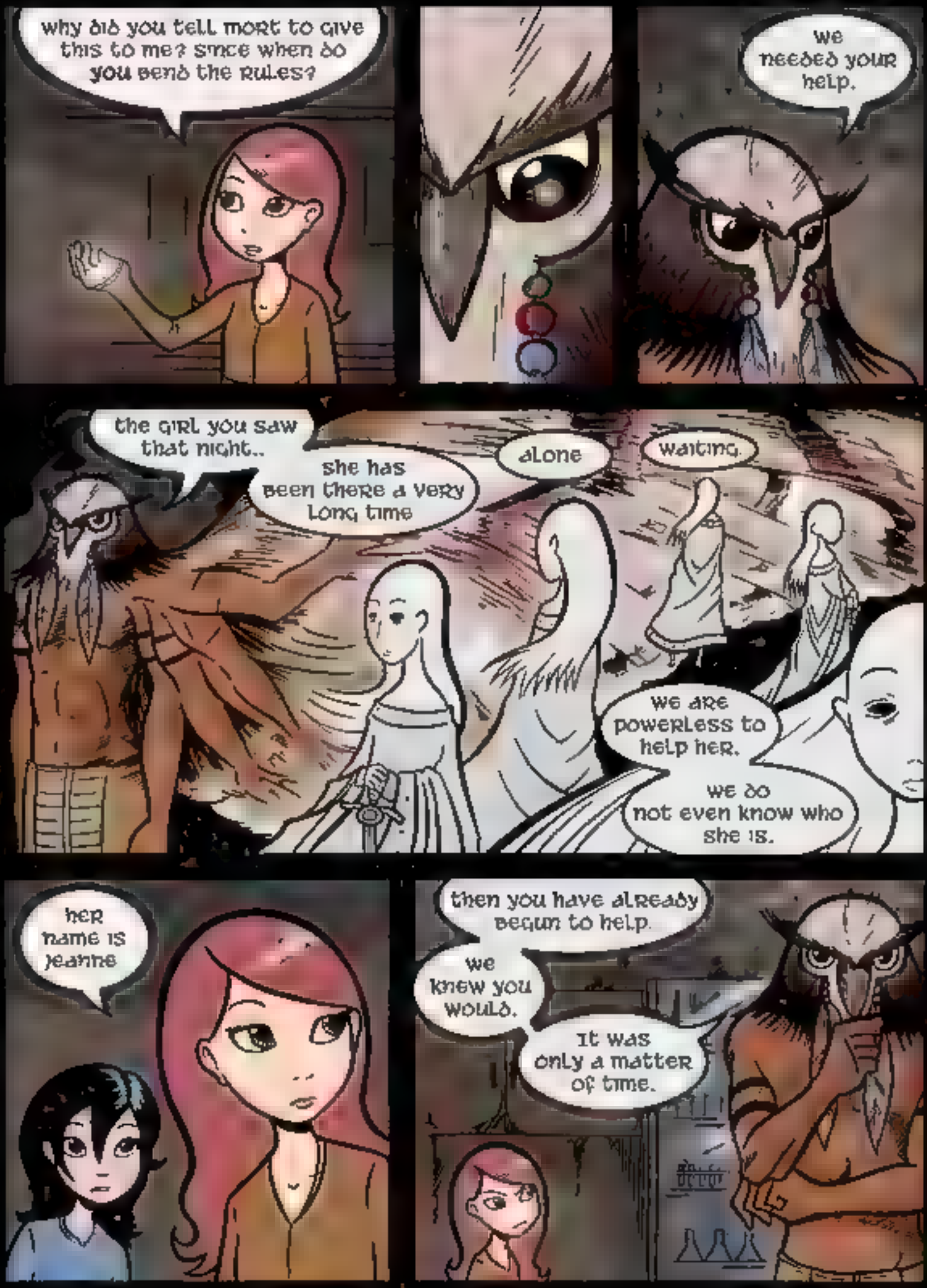
you thought you could stake some sort of claim on me?
without me knowing?
did you?
well you can have it back!
annie!
what the hell?? what the hell was that?!
you don't throw a gift back in someone's face like that!
especially if it's from a boy who likes you!
he's not a boy, kat he's just a ghost.
annie!

Look, uh... it wasn't my idea.
MORT
muut appeared the night you fell off the bridge and started telling me it would be a good idea to send you something.
like, a gift you would find useful.
but... afterlife guides aren't allowed to interfere with the living world.
I know. he kept making out it was my idea, even though he had the stone right there.
I mean, I didn't even know what the thing was, but it was muut, what could I say?
I guess it was pretty important you got it
but why a blinker stone?
yeah, how would I know?
I'm just a ghost.
BWIP

oh, annie... i think he heard you...
mort?
mort?
mort i....
c'mon. i think you should make yourself scarce.


TIP
TAP
man, it's weird, you know?
I mean, it's just an ant...
but now that I know there is some creepy insect guy that appears when it dies makes this kinda hard to-
oh
squish
uh... just make sure I can't see this click-clack guy again.
hello, ketrak

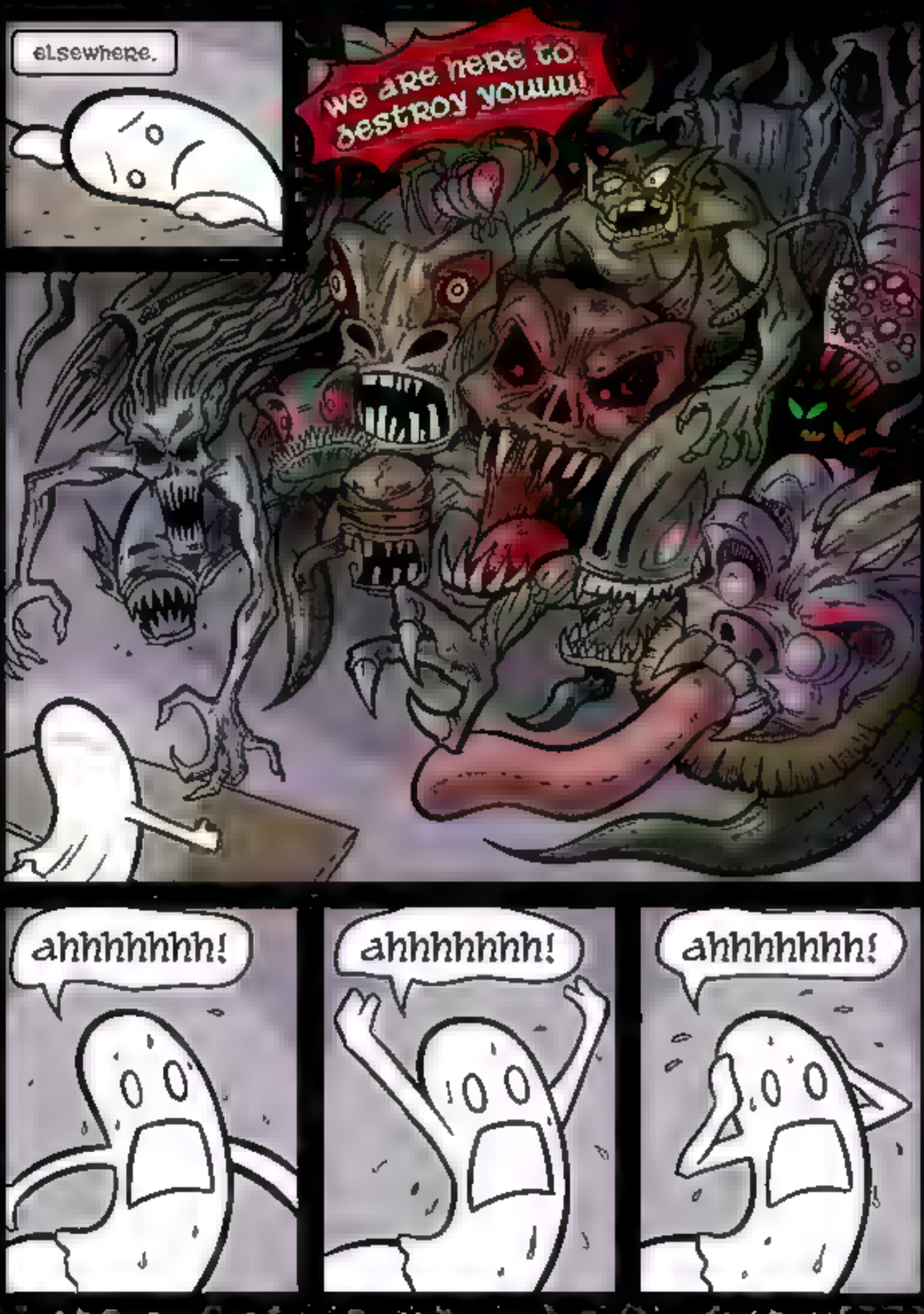
sorry to bother you. could you get muut for me, please?
you should not have wasted a life m such a way.
If you have a better way to contact you, I'm all ears
also, you should make yourself visible to my friend, kat. no need to be rude.


why did you tell mort to give this to me? since when do you bend the rules?
we needed your help.
the girl you saw that night..
she has been there a very long time
alone
waiting.
we are powerless to help her.
we do not even know who she is.
her name is jeanne
then you have already begun to help.
we knew you would.
it was only a matter of time.

If you are so clever, why didn't you just ask me to help?
Would you have agreed, had the request come from us?
Why a blinker stone?
think of it as a first step
a means to extend your reach beyond the material world...
into the world in which Jeanne resides
Is that all?
Wait
Lost, stranded in the aether, she needs a hand like yours to be an anchor.

what's the deal with you guys?
why are you so mad at them, annie? is it 'cos... one of them had to take your mom?
tell her.
?
the night surma passed on...
none of us came for her.
but
then...
oh no..
I had to do it myself

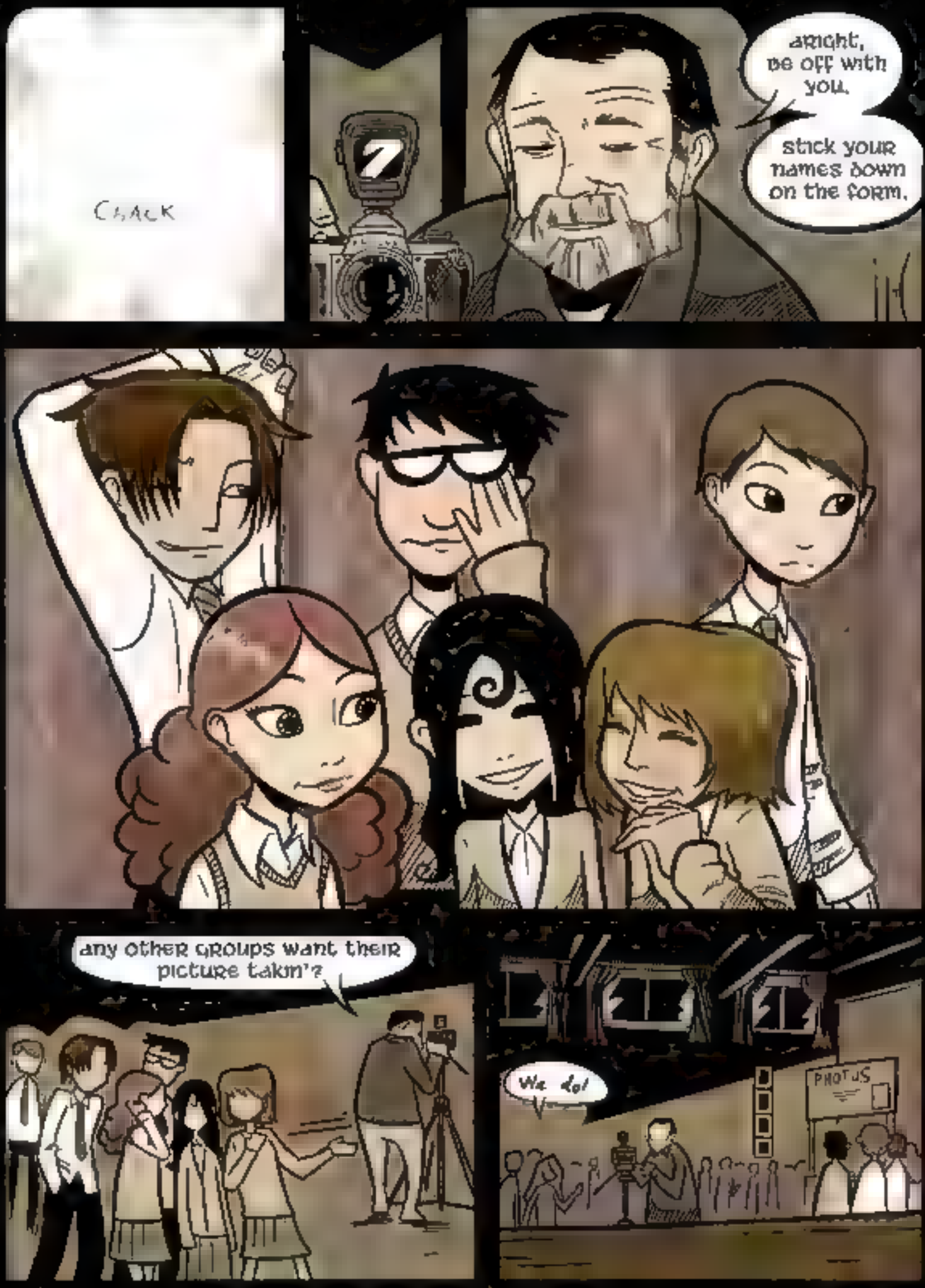
thank you, kat.
no problem.
now I ask a tiny favour of you.
you know we are not allowed to interfere in the living realm.
no need to worry about that.

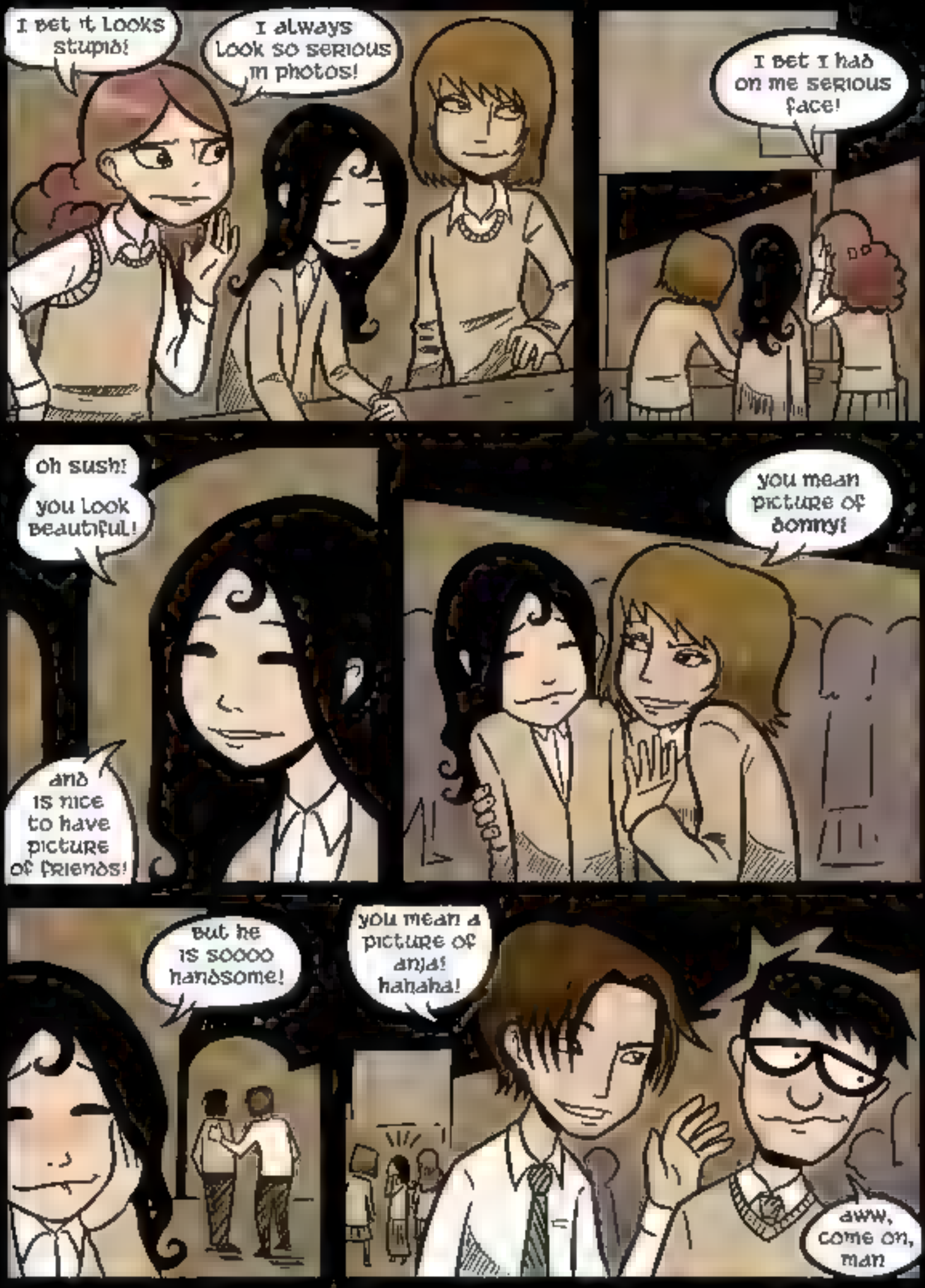

elsewhere.
We are here to destroy youuu!
ahhhhhhh!
ahhhhhhh!
ahhhhhhh!

It is a jest. In reality we are here to deliver this.
aaaaahhhhhhhhh
what
ooh, a card!
It has a heart on it.
Mort
Dearest, Mort
I am very sorry
I am a terrible fool
Please forgive me
with love,
Antimony
(also BOO)
carver sent you?!
yes.
hahaha!
what the hell, annie?
HA
HA
HA
HA
Silent

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 22: lies


CLACK
alright, be off with you.
stick your names down on the form.
any other groups want their picture takin'?
We do!
PHOTOS


I bet it looks stupid!
I always look so serious in photos!
I bet I had on me serious face!
oh sush! you look beautiful!
you mean picture of Sonny!
and is nice to have picture of friends!
But he is soooo handsome!
you mean a picture of Anja! hahaha!
aww, come on, man

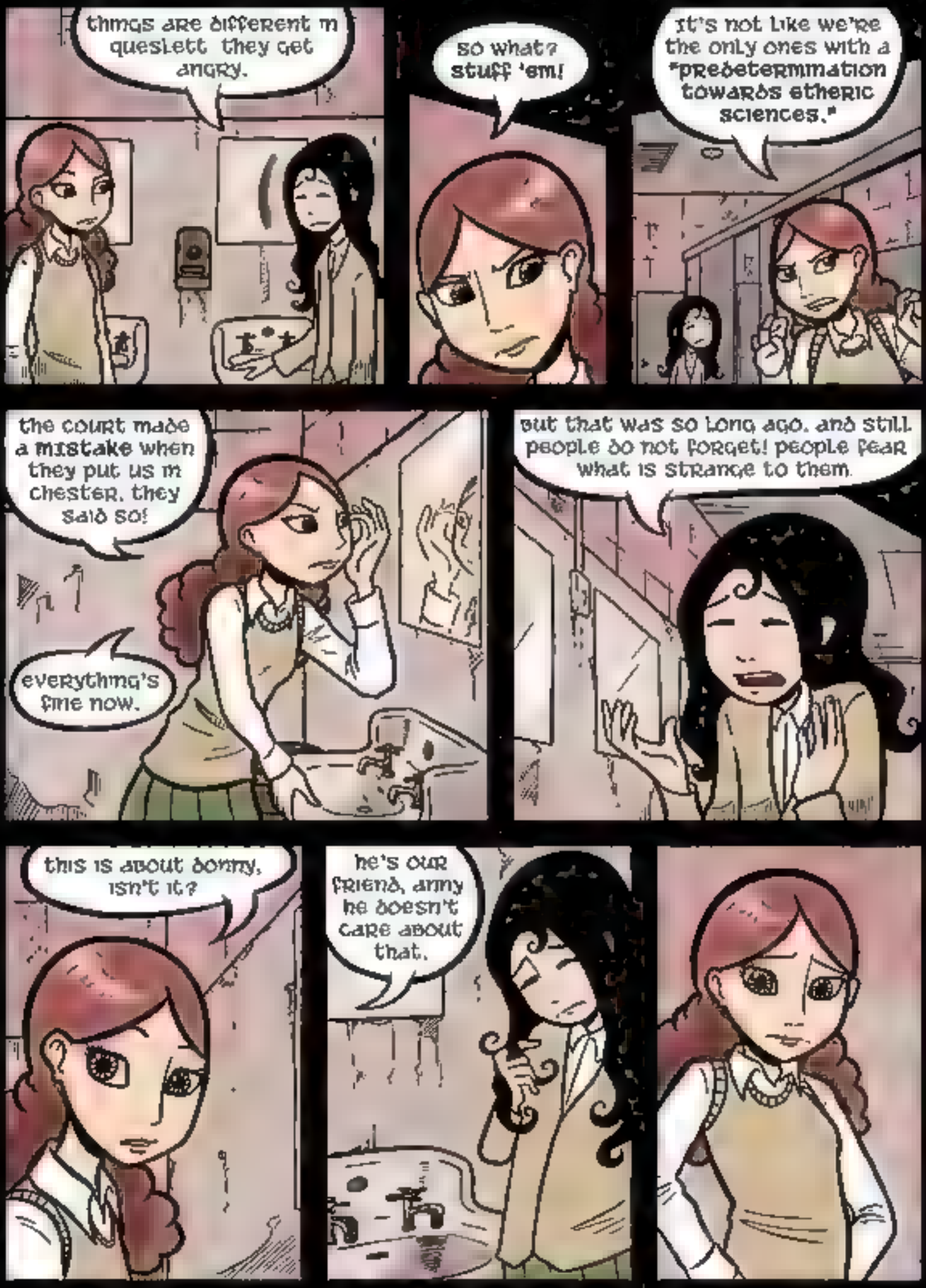
haha! don't worry about it, man.
I wish jones could have been in the photo, though.
eh, you know surma can't stand her.
yeah...
hey, tony, aren't you coming for lunch?
I have matters to attend to.
oh... okay. we'll see you later, then
Nod
"I have matters to attend to."
jeez, who talks like that?

Won't you stay a little longer, Brinnie?
Sorry!
you know how the old man get angry when I skip lesson.
Is such stupid thing, we can not even have lunch together anymore.
But what can you do?!
I will see you later!
you tell me how photo-picture comes out!

Who let the freak show in here?
I'll never get used to that!
Heh! Brianne is such a show off!
shoulda left them in chester, with the other weirdos
Ha ha, yeah
say that to me face, hyland, I dare ya!
alright, you an' your friends are freaks, how's that, you cu-
WHUD

Jimmy!
hyland, get out of my sight.
eglamore, my office. now.

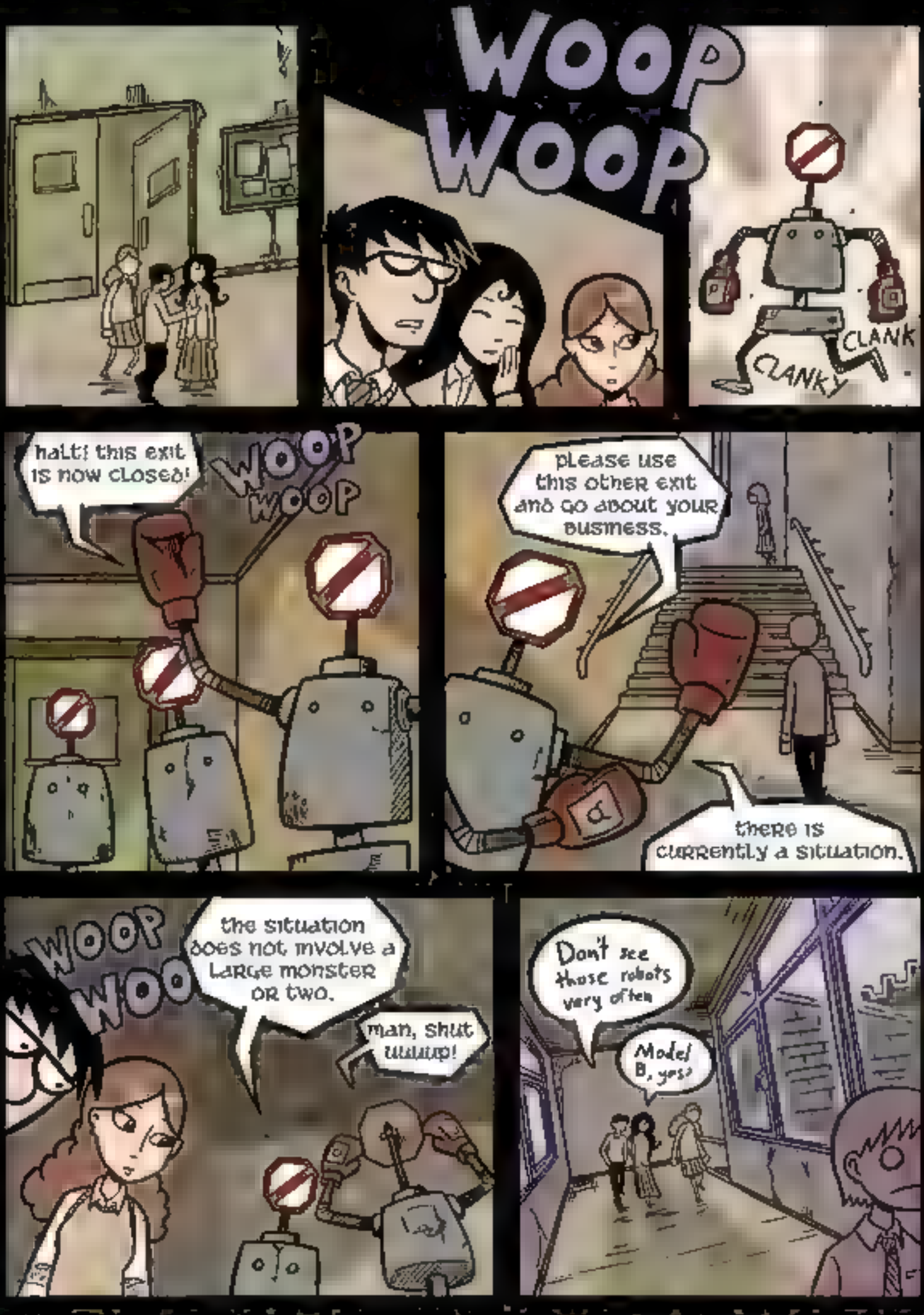
Bah! you shoulda zapped him, anja!
woulda teached him!
um... excuse please, donald!
dang it, jimmy
what's the matter, love?
surma, you know people they don't like when we use our magics!


things are different in queslett they get angry.
so what? stuff 'em!
it's not like we're the only ones with a "predetermination towards etheric sciences."
the court made a mistake when they put us in chester. they said so!
everything's fine now.
but that was so long ago. and still people do not forget! people fear what is strange to them.
this is about sonny, isn't it?
he's our friend, anny he doesn't care about that.

fine, fine.
but one day you'll realise you don't hafta hide who you are just to fit in.
no matter what anybody says.
look's like it's just us three for lunch then!
TWIST

Look, sir, Nyland started it he's a jackass!
I'm not blind, or stupid.
I know how people are around here.
But that doesn't excuse what you did.
had any other teacher besides me stopped you, you might be facing expulsion
You realise that, right?
yes sir...
but still
standing up for a friend. a noble act cannot be dismissed.

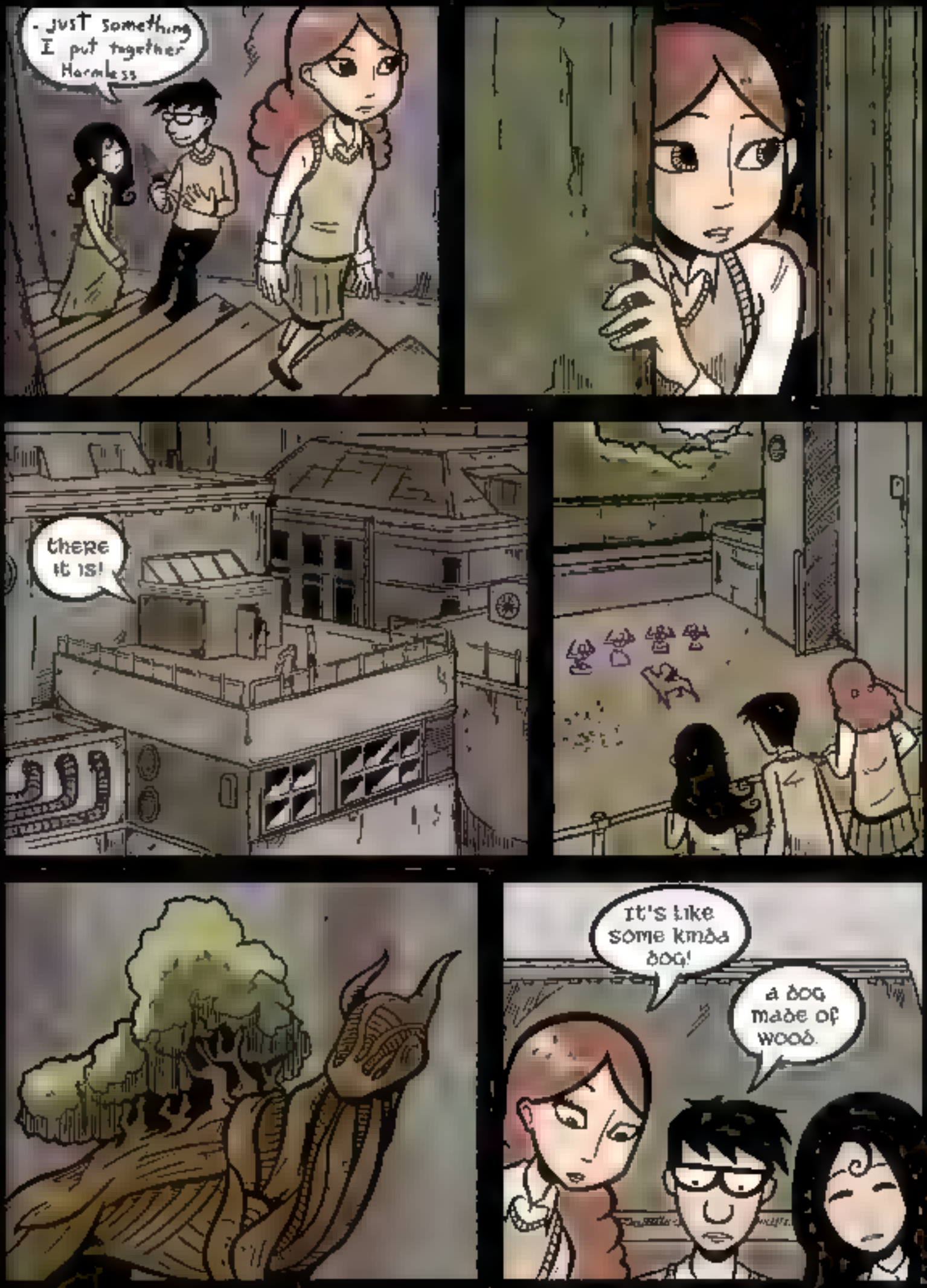
you fly off the handle too quickly, James.
you need to keep your temper in check.
yes, sir.
you have a future here, and I don't want to see you ruin your chances
sir?
have you ever heard of the rogat orjak?


WOOP WOOP
CLANK
CLANKY
halt! this exit is now closed!
WOOP WOOP
please use this other exit and go about your business.
there is currently a situation.
WOOP WOO
the situation does not involve a large monster or two.
man, shut uuuup!
Don't see those robots very often
Model B, yes?

CRASH
SMASH

c'mon, we have to get a better look at this!
ROOF
hold it right there you crazy kids!

shoo! get back!
away! go on!
PIP PIP
BEWW
quick. make 'em face the other way! the disruptor only lasts a few seconds.
there
Bing!
yes! we shall leave now! thank you! good job!
y-yes, you do... that.
wow, ace job. boss!
So cool!


- just something I put together Harmless
there it is!
It's like some kinda dog!
a dog made of wood.

NNNNNN
NÓ
IS. IS not a real creature. IS more like... puppet being called back to forest.
I think it's just trying to get through!
huh? how can you tell?
uh... umm...
maybe it's like a drone or something.

Look out!
SPANG

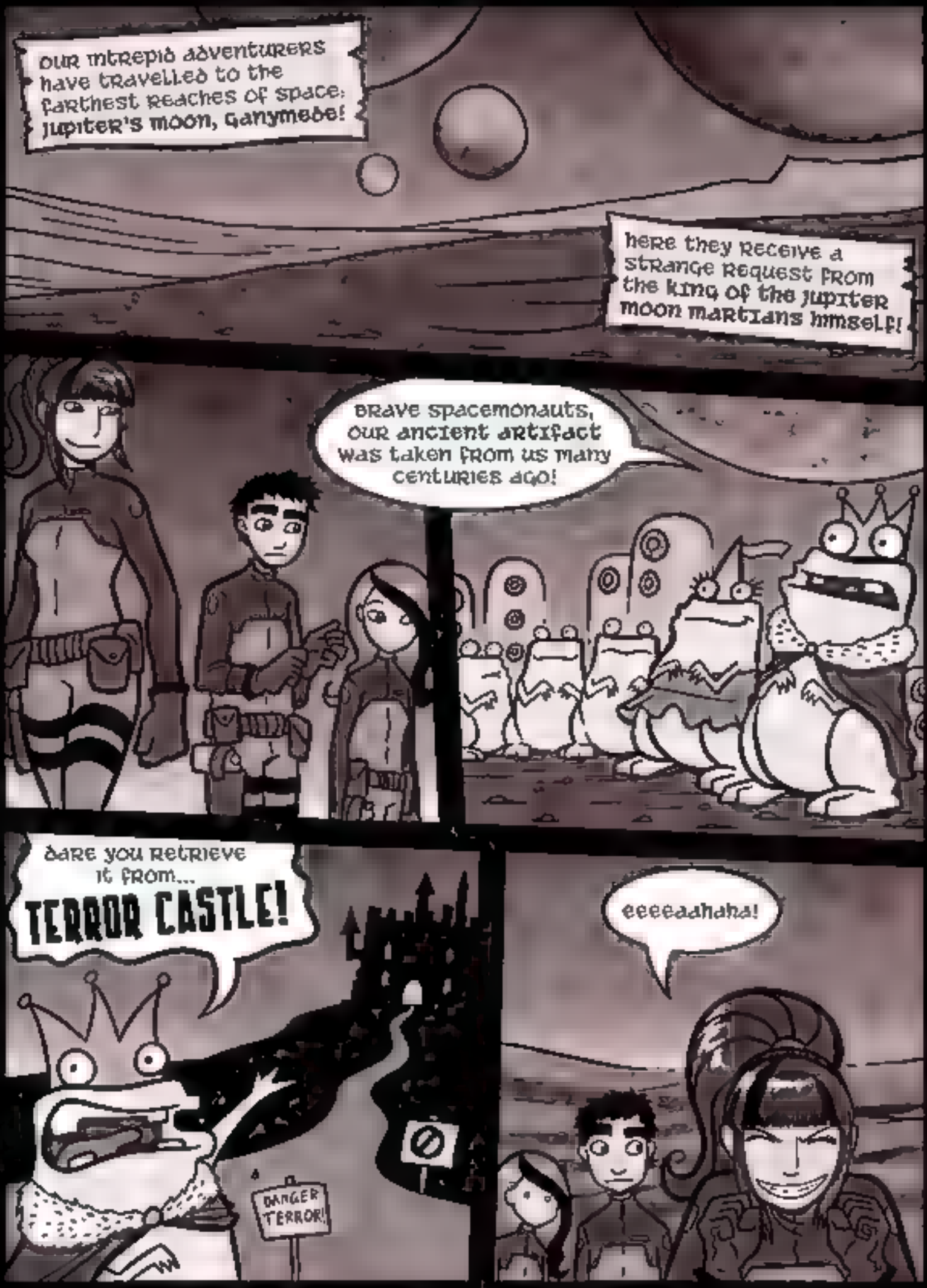
wow, anja! that was incredible!
oh! well...
uh, can you guys save it for later?

CHFF
hi, guys.

don't forget double cross country tomorrow, james.
oh .. right

jimmy?! what's going on?
you guys aren't going to believe this
but that guy is our games teacher.

TERROR CASTLE
OF THE
JUPITER MOON MARTIANS
A SPACEMORANTS ADVENTURE
SEE ALIEN TRIBES IN CONFLICT!
SEE TEAMWORK AT ITS FINEST!
Gunnerkrigg Court
Chapter 23


our intrepid adventurers have travelled to the farthest reaches of space: Jupiter's moon, Ganymede!
here they receive a strange request from the king of the Jupiter moon martians himself!
brave spacemonauts, our ancient artifact was taken from us many centuries ago!
dare you retrieve it from...
TERROR CASTLE!
DANGER TERROR!
eeeeaahaha!

C'mon, let's go!
?
CLONK
dammit...
After all these years! the ancient artifact is returned to us!
what?
thank you, brave adventurers!
what?
MISSION COMPLETE
noooo!

I can't believe it!
I was looking forward to that!
IMAGING CHAMBER
you ruin everything, smitty!
I'm not beholden to anyone, Renard, you know that
still, a shame to see...
you're so boring!
finished already?
smitface ruined the sim!

ms. jones! ms. jones!
for you!
thank you, randy. they are lovely, as always.
I don't know what happened!
a glitch in the simulator caused it to terminate early
how can I ever repay you?
dinner, perhaps? a movie?
do not worry about it, randy. it must have been an elegant display of andrew's ability that he could finish one of your fine simulations so soon.
ah! you flatter me!

very well, the next simulation...
will begin a little early
one I thought you might find interesting, Renard...
It will be ready when you are finished changing
you seemed to be getting along well with ms. jones.
ha! do I detect a hint of jealousy?
I think you detect a hint of shut your face
pfft haha! katerina must be helping you with your comebacks!
woah, where do you think you're goin', titchy?
FEMALE CHANGING
teddy bear demon or not, you stay out here.
hmm, 'twas worth a try, I suppose.

soon
andrew, why do you let parley talk to you like she does?
CLICK
hmm.
I guess mainly because I think she is hotter than hell.
ahahahah! good eye! spineless, but good eye nonetheless!
you're much more forward when she isn't around.
she's most likely only as upset as she is because she couldn't flaunt herself in front of you in that ridiculous outfit!
parley?? no way, she just likes teasing me.
andrew, she's all over you all the time.

come on...
nah
she just treats me like a kid
I shall have to keep my distance then, if she acts the same to all younger people.
hahaha!
ah, has a creature ever perfected the art of denial as finely as a human?
how's this?
I wager when she leaves the changing room, her hands will soon find your body!
that's crazy-
there you are! don't think I've finished with you yet!
ah. I think that counts.
huh?
what're they laughin' at?

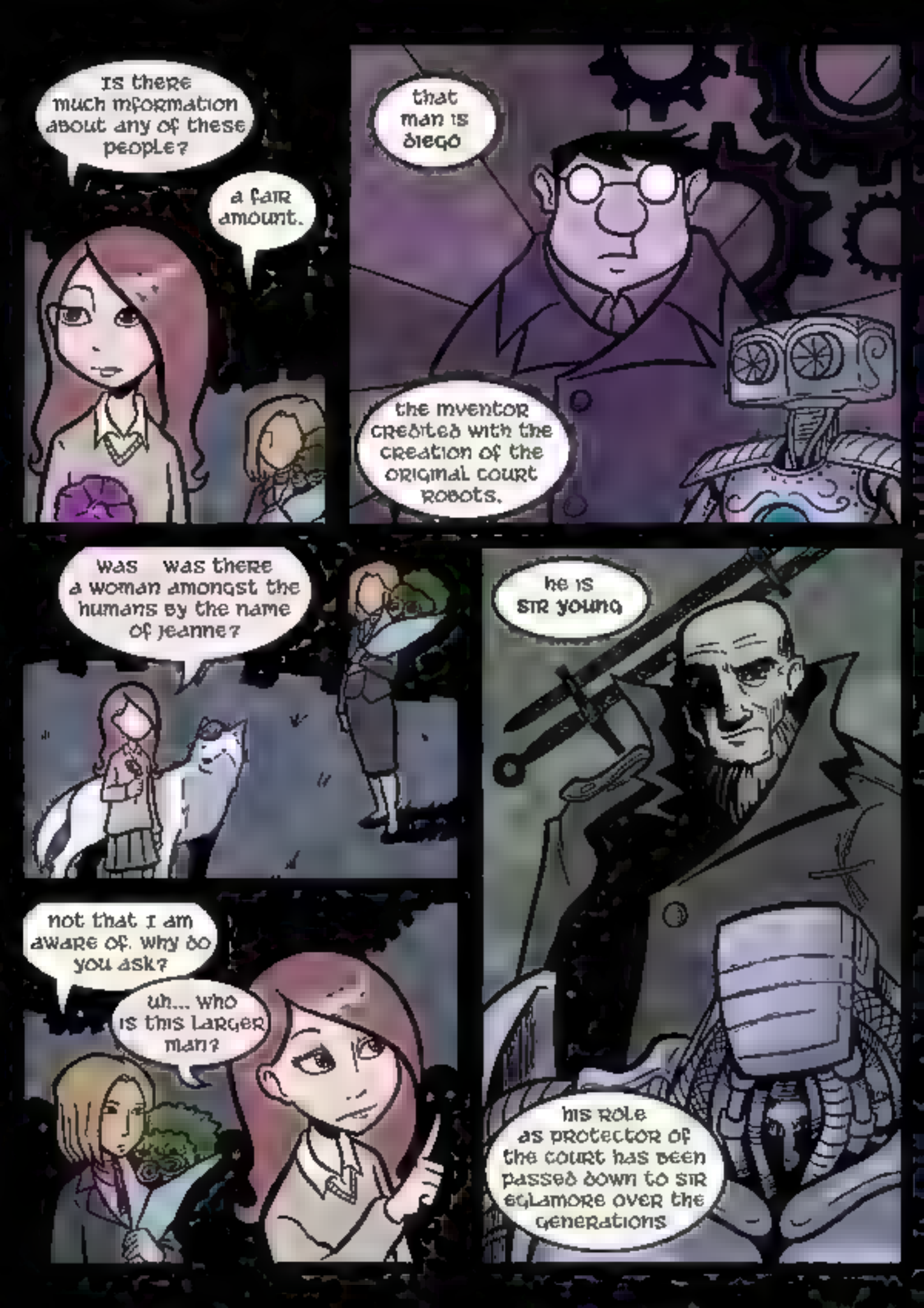
I don't know why we even gotta keep having these lessons.
It's obvious Carver is gonna be picked as the next medium.
she went into the forest already and has the demon Renard under her control!
the decision is ultimately up to the court
however, you are free to give up and quit whenever you like.
eh... it gets me out of class.

okay, please beam, randy.
everything alright?
this trickery just makes me a little nervous, that's all.

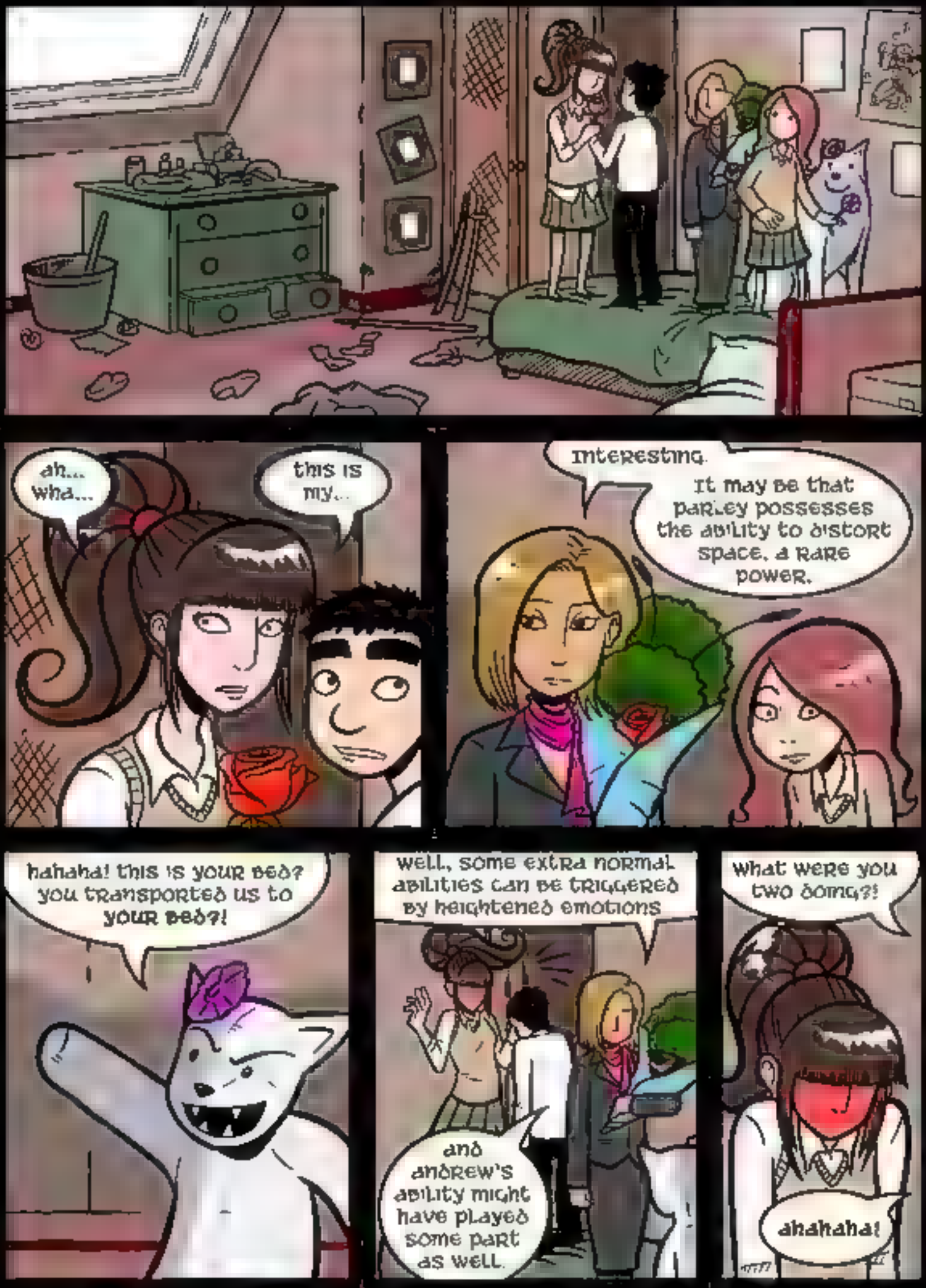
well I'll be...
this is a depiction of the beginnings of the court
before the division caused by coyote

what was in the center, here?
It is known as the seed bismuth.
the element that began the creation of the court.
there is no record of exactly what it was
this simulation is an artistic representation
uh...

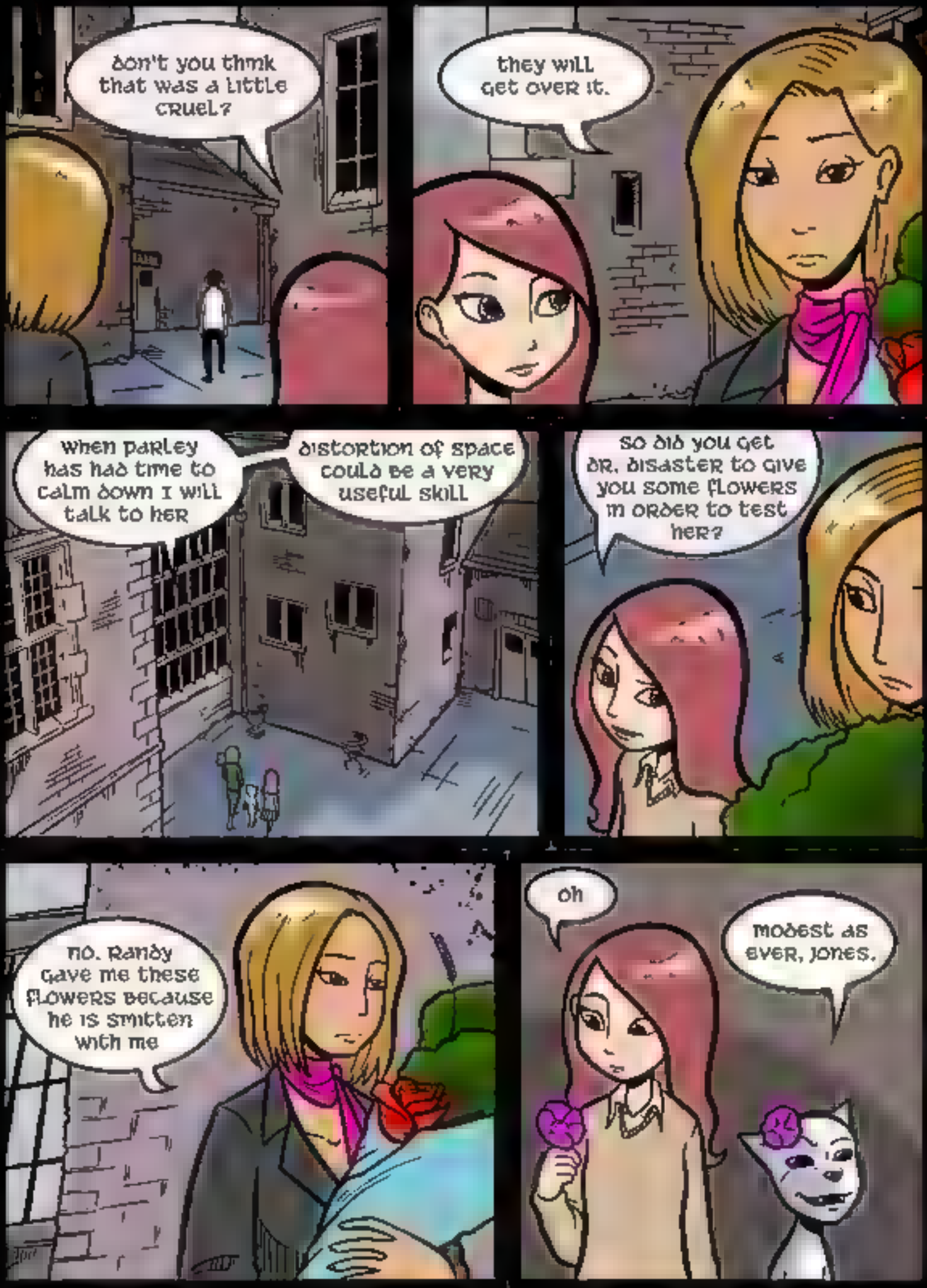
why did the humans come to gillitie forest?
what were they fleeing from?
some say they were escaping a war
others claim they were hiding from humanity itself.
?
there is no record of the exact cause
hey, teddy. weren't you here for all this?
this was a little before my time.
coyote, ysengrin and i didn't arrive until..
later

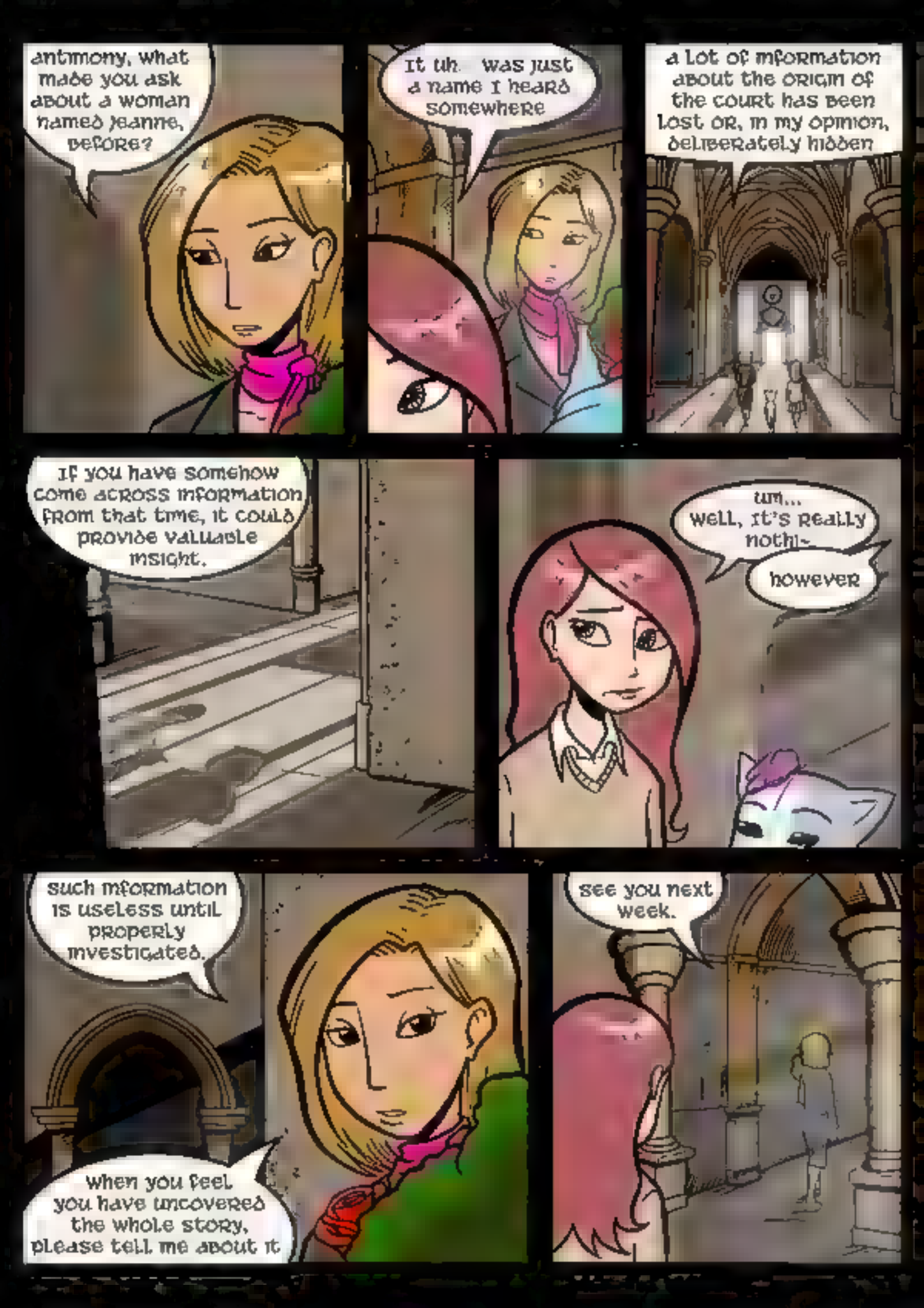

Is there much information about any of these people?
a fair amount.
that man is Diego
the inventor created with the creation of the original court robots.
was was there a woman amongst the humans by the name of Jeanne?
he is Sir Young
not that I am aware of. why do you ask?
uh... who is this larger man?
his role as protector of the court has been passed down to Sir Eglamore over the generations

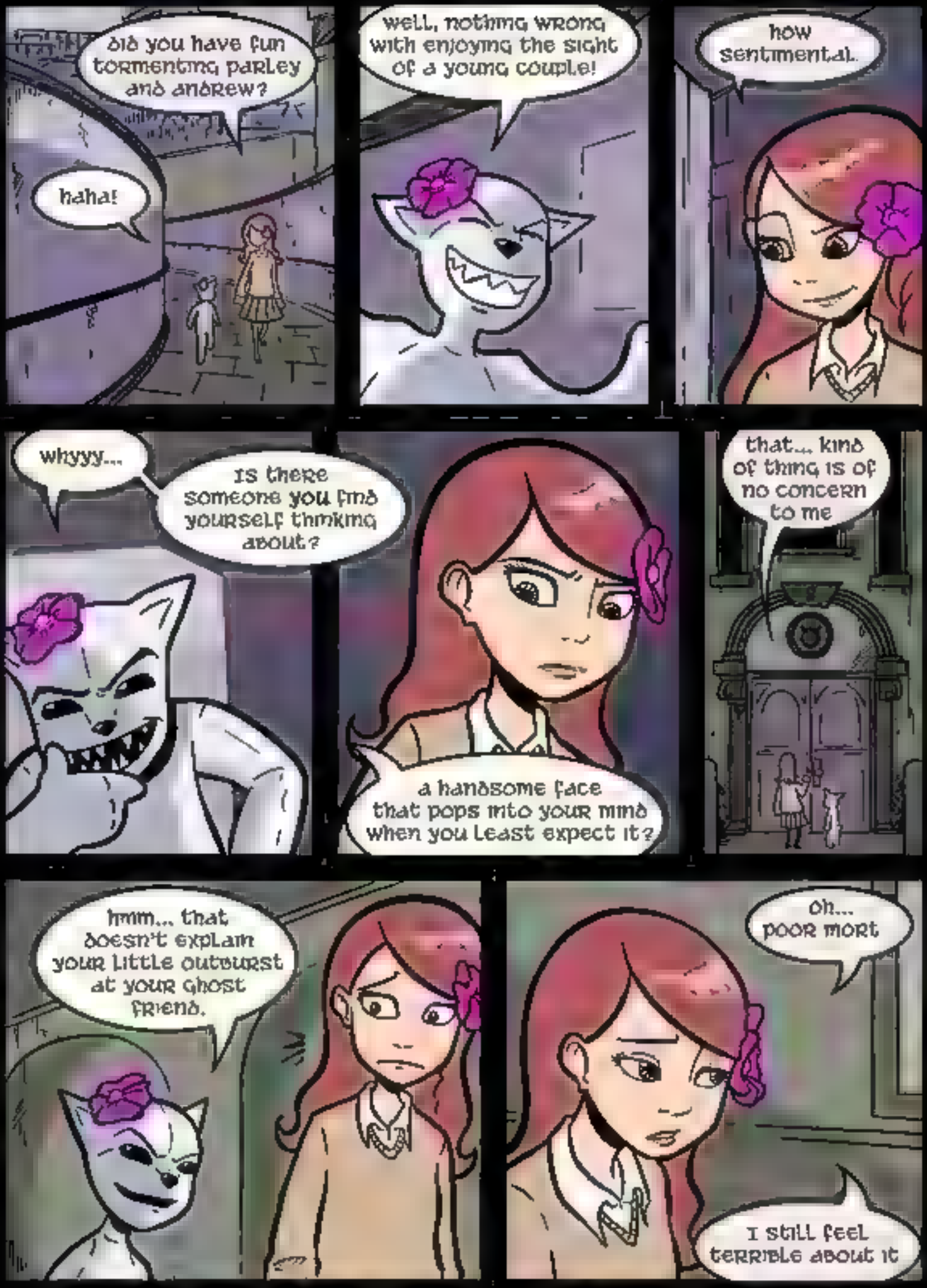
that is steadman, the archer...
?
?
a close friend of the artilleryman...
NUUUDGE
huh?
what're ya doin' smitty?
hah! a flower?
y-you sap..
uh... I-I
BIP


ah... wha...
this is my...
interesting.
It may be that parley possesses the ability to distort space, a rare power.
hahaha! this is your bed? you transported us to your bed?!
well, some extra normal abilities can be triggered by heightened emotions
and andrew's ability might have played some part as well.
what were you two doing?!
ahahaha!

get out!
get out!
get out!
Leave the chocolates!
SLAM
and give me that!
SLAM AGAIN
I.. wuh...
what just...
class dismissed.
Pat Pat


don't you thmk that was a little cruel?
they will get over it.
when parley has had time to calm down I will talk to her
distortion of space could be a very useful skill
so did you get dr. disaster to give you some flowers in order to test her?
no. Randy gave me these flowers because he is smitten with me
oh
modest as ever, jones.


antimony, what made you ask about a woman named Jeanne, before?
It uh... was just a name I heard somewhere
a lot of information about the origin of the court has been lost or, in my opinion, deliberately hidden
If you have somehow come across information from that time, it could provide valuable insight.
um... well, it's really nothi~
however
such information is useless until properly investigated.
when you feel you have uncovered the whole story, please tell me about it
see you next week.


did you have fun tormenting parley and andrew?
haha!
well, nothing wrong with enjoying the sight of a young couple!
how sentimental.
whyyy...
is there someone you find yourself thinking about?
a handsome face that pops into your mind when you least expect it?
that... kind of thing is of no concern to me
hmm... that doesn't explain your little outburst at your ghost friend.
oh... poor mort
I still feel terrible about it

when I thought he was assuming something of me behind my back I just...
I don't know...
haha! well, you may have everyone fooled with your stoic facade, but not me!
you have a fire in you, child, a fire that belonged to your mother!
uh... look...
surma was-
how long have you known ms. jones?
wha... uh... a while now.
is she a robot?
what?! of course not! this place is beginning to colour your mind!

so what is she?
you'd have to ask her. I don't think even coyote could answer that.
you guys go on ahead. I'll catch up
carver! hey!
hello, jack.
hey, how's it going?
fine, thank you.
great, great.
is everything okay?

yeahhh... listen.
that friend of yours... remember, from when we went to see the power station?
the one with black hair.
you mean kat?
no no.. the other one. her friend didn't speak english.
oh... you mean zimmy.
zimmy, that's right, yeah zimmy
chester, I think...
what class is she in?
oh, chester huh? right, right .

so. what's up with her?
what happened?
I don't know how to explain it, jack...
zimmy-
that city she took us to...
what was that place?
how did she do that?
where is she right now?

oh . you have a, uh, large wolf with you.
okay cool.
nice flowers.

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 24:

Residential

you didn't have to leave your stone.
I have plenty of books to read.
I'm just... just checking in.
who knows what you might get up to if you get bored?
haha!
go and have fun with your friends, child.

talking to Rey again?
SORRY, kat. I'm back now
I still can't believe the park we're camping in is in the court.
and the weather is SO HORRIBLE!
I hope it's one of those camping trips that doesn't involve going outside at all..

hello! welcome to young's park!
I'm bob, this is the wife, marcia.
hi kids!
let's get off to the campsite!
hey! so we get quad bikes?
walking is nature's quad bikes!
Ha Ha!

a long time later
found 'em then, bob?
maybe this won't be so bad after all!

alright, your tents are set up right over there.
huh? I don't see anything...
they're over there somewhere.
just need to do a bit more walking!
cows!

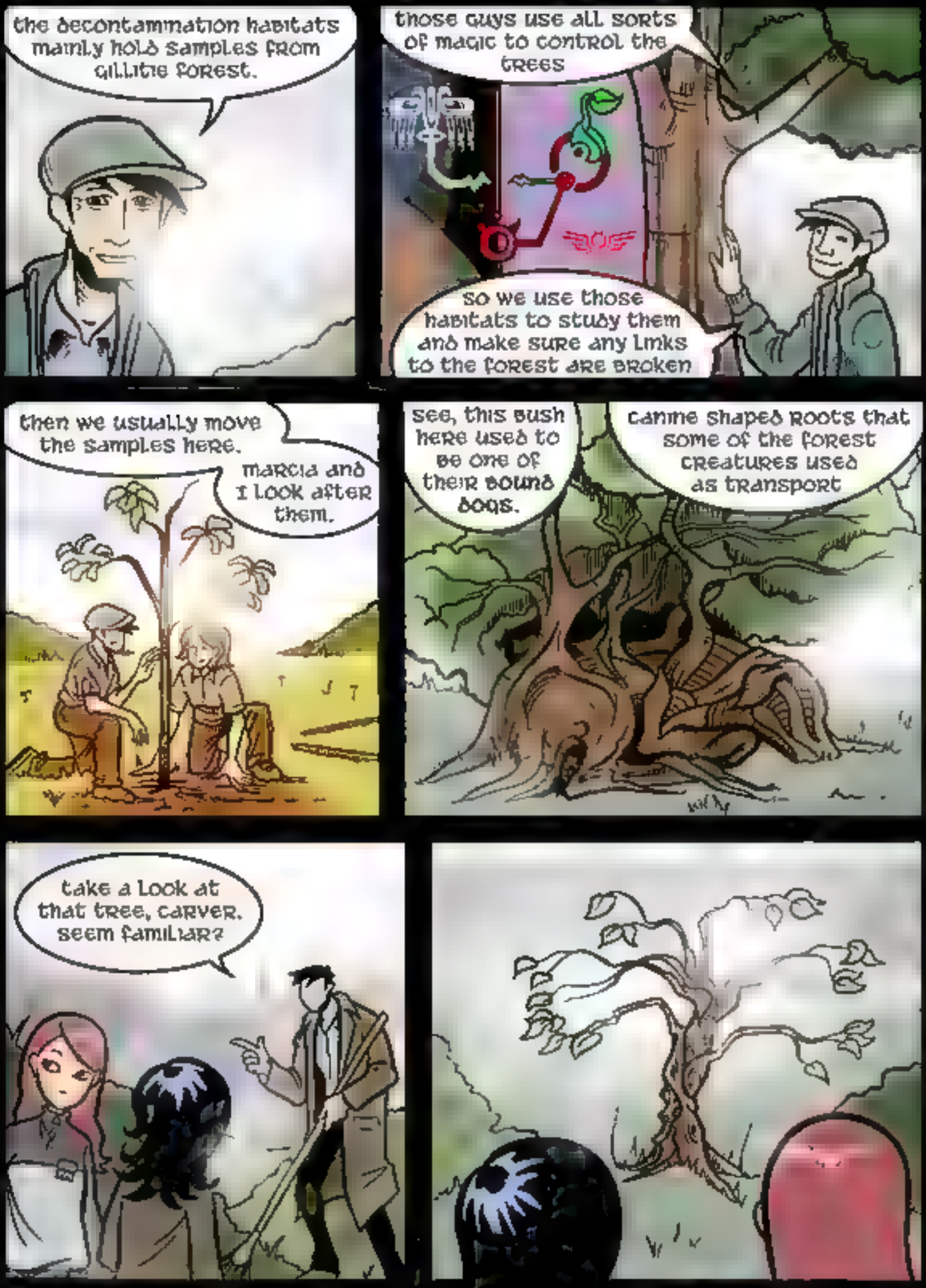
I have not seen a cow in so long! a ver si que son...
auditory response: moo.
"ELSIE" 113
Lindas
grass length deviation detected. resizing in progress.
Zot
haha! not just cows, laser cows! they keep the grass trim.
just like real cows!
only with lasers

you guys pick your tents and drop your stuff off
then we'll go for a tour of the park!

well, we knew jack's class would be here too.
I don't think he's gonna... you know, do anything.
I suppose not.
at least not with me around!
nobody creeps out my main babe if I have anything to say about it!
Jab
I feel safer already!
haha!
this place is kinda boring. is gillitie forest like this?
no it's a lot more wild there. everything here is nice and tidy
well, except for that thing.

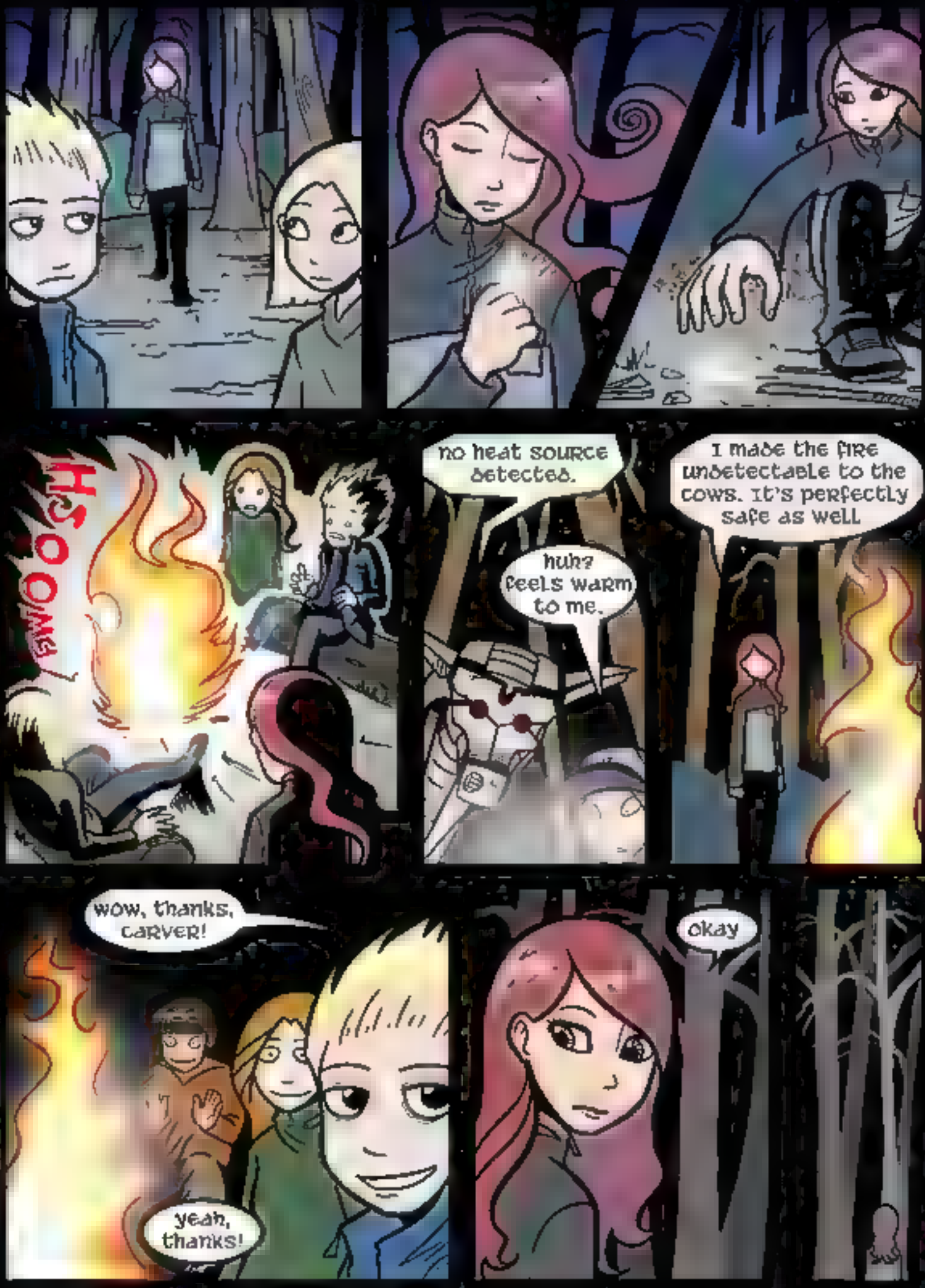
WHACK
WHACK
huh! It's a monument to that guy you learned about
SIR YOUNG?
and someone called nevihta
nevihta was young's orjak.
that monument is where the park gets its name
for some reason the cows never cut the grass in this area.
I stop by now and then to help tidy it up.

hey BOB, you know who these two are, right?
kat donlan and annie carver.
oh, we met once before.
huh?
I caught them in one of my decon habitats
what are you kids doing here?
some time last year, I guess.
ha! what were they doing in there?
just snooping around, haha!
um. what are those rooms for?
the uh~ the ones with the trees


the decontamination habitats mainly hold samples from Gillitie forest.
those guys use all sorts of magic to control the trees
so we use those habitats to study them and make sure any links to the forest are broken
then we usually move the samples here.
Marcia and I look after them.
see, this bush here used to be one of their hound dogs.
canine shaped roots that some of the forest creatures used as transport
take a look at that tree, Carver. seem familiar?

looks like it's time to call it a night.
which is your tent, sir?
oh I'm not staying in a tent. I'm staying at bob and marcia's house.
what?? you get to stay in a house while we have to sleep out in the cold?!
yeah! it's all part of the experience. for you guys, anyway.
personally, I hate camping. makes my back hurt
but don't worry, the laser cows will keep an eye on things.
get your hands off me
why couldn't we go camping when the weather was nice?!
good question!
night!

come on, it's freezing!
hang on. almost got it.
heat source detected: extinguishing.
aww!
go away you big, dumb cow!
response: no.
added note: it is you that is dumb.
query: did I detect some burning just now?
reply: only my incredible insult.
Looks like some of the guys are trying to start a fire.


WOOSH
no heat source detected.
huh? feels warm to me.
I made the fire undetectable to the cows. It's perfectly safe as well
okay
wow, thanks, carver!
yeah, thanks!

next morning
alright camping!
Rise and shine!
up and at 'em!
CLAP CLAP
other clichés!
oooh! ow ow, my back!
I get it now. camping was designed as punishment
hmm, my blinker stone is not where I left it last night
huh? can you find it?
skrch
jack has it

huh?
who's there?
BUNK

kat, I don't want you going near jack.
uh.. sure
alright, last shot determines the winner.
SPAK
THUD

hmm, fancy shooting, Llanwellyn, but you missed the target.
ah yes, well. a shame.
Jimmy!
Jimmy! emergency!
what?!
Marcia, Eglamore and I have to get back to the court. we need you to stay and watch the kids
B-but... me?

But what about you know... the ghost...
huh?
We'll get back as soon as we can.
just hold out 'til then!
so...
um.
kids
ahh!
who did this to my trees?!
ah, miss...
Right!
everybody back to your tents!
you! pack all this junk away!
on your own!

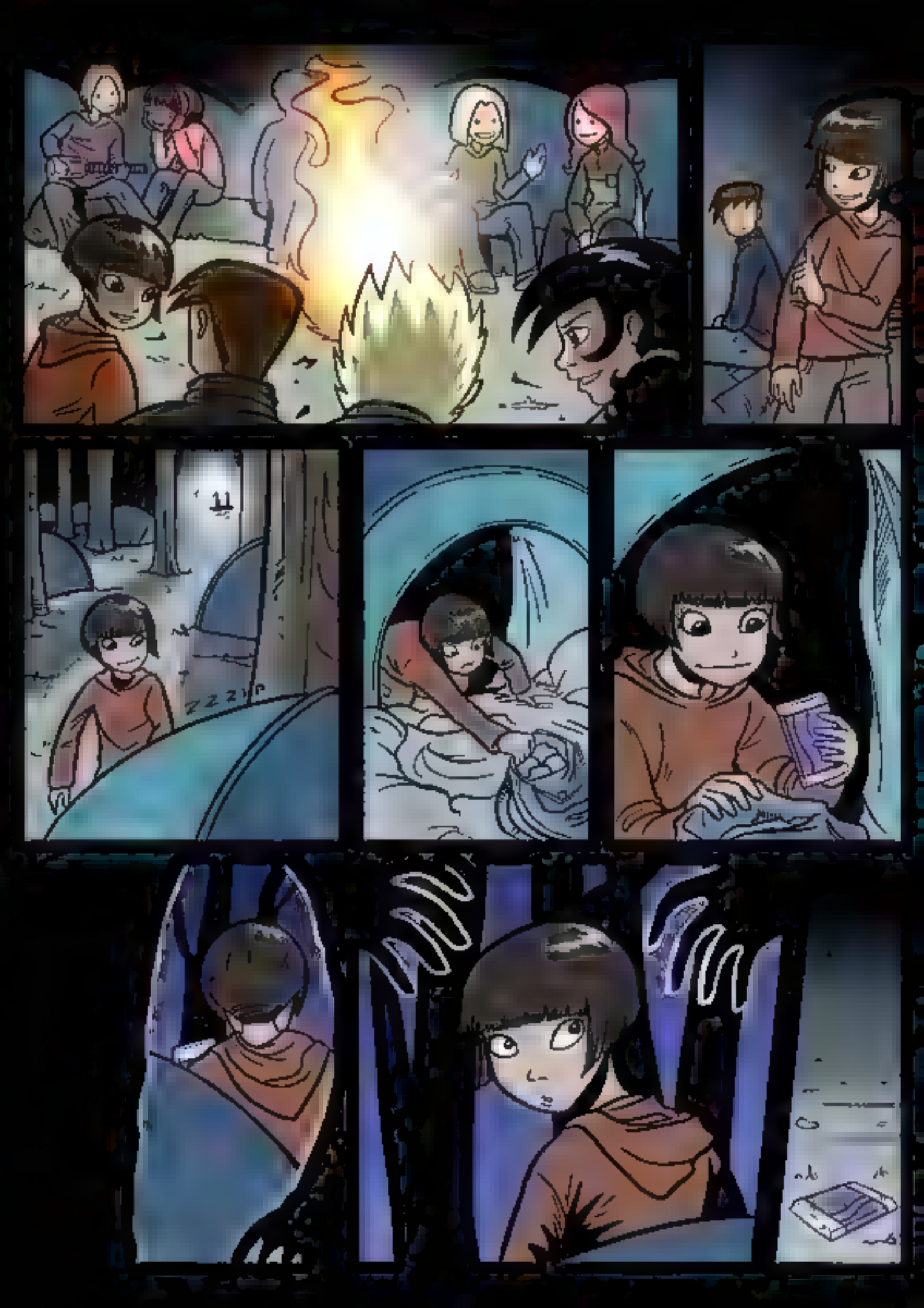
Later
Where is she?!
Janet should have been back by now.
I mean . . not that I care or anything.
Marcia is still sulking in her house. Let's go tell her.
KNOCK KNOCK
What do you kids want?
Mrs. Sutton, Janet is missing!
Ugh! I knew this would happen! This is why Eglamore was here. To protect you from the ghost!
Look, just don't wander around on your own. Go back to your tents and we'll wait for this to blow over
But what about Janet-
SHUT

huh?
hey! what're you doing?!
get away from there, you creep!
ease up!
she has a rock stuck in her near side synovial joint
POP
how's that, girl?
WRRRR
repair successful. thank you, mr. hyland.

we know you tried to steal annie's blinker stone, jack.
that red thing? haha. nice trick, making it disappear
maybe if carver wasn't such an ice queen I could have just asked her about it myself
what did you say?!
come on kat... let's go.
hey, no offence or anything!
nobody else wants to talk to her either.
that's why you two are always alone.
and you think I'm a creep.
scratch
what you~ !!
forget it, kat.

argh! I can't believe that guy!
you shouldn't be lonely because of me, kat.
no! don't start that! he's just trying to mess with your head!
uh... hey.
oh. hi, john.
um... could you ask carver if she'll do that fire thing again?
she's right here! why don't you ask her yourself?!
ah... uh... oh- I uh...

here, just place it on the ground and I'll light it
th-thanks...
I suppose it's true, they really don't like talking to me
I think I make people nervous.
annie... you're just quiet, that's all..
that's no excuse. I don't want you to feel you can't join in for my sake.
you are my main babe, after all.
haha!


11
ZZZZIP

yeah, paz didn't come back last night either.
that's, what, six people missing overnight?
when you count the other camps, yeah
I think the teachers are playing a trick on us.
mr. eglamore is probably picking people off one by one and taking them away somewhere.
huh. that sounds about right.
this is the kind of thing adults would do to make a trip more "interesting". them running off on some fake emergency is all part of the trick.
we could set a trap. if someone is taken with my stone, I'll be able to see where they go.
a chance to be whisked away by mr.eglamore?
I volunteer!

oh boy! I sure hope nothing happens to me now that I'm here all alone!
hehe.

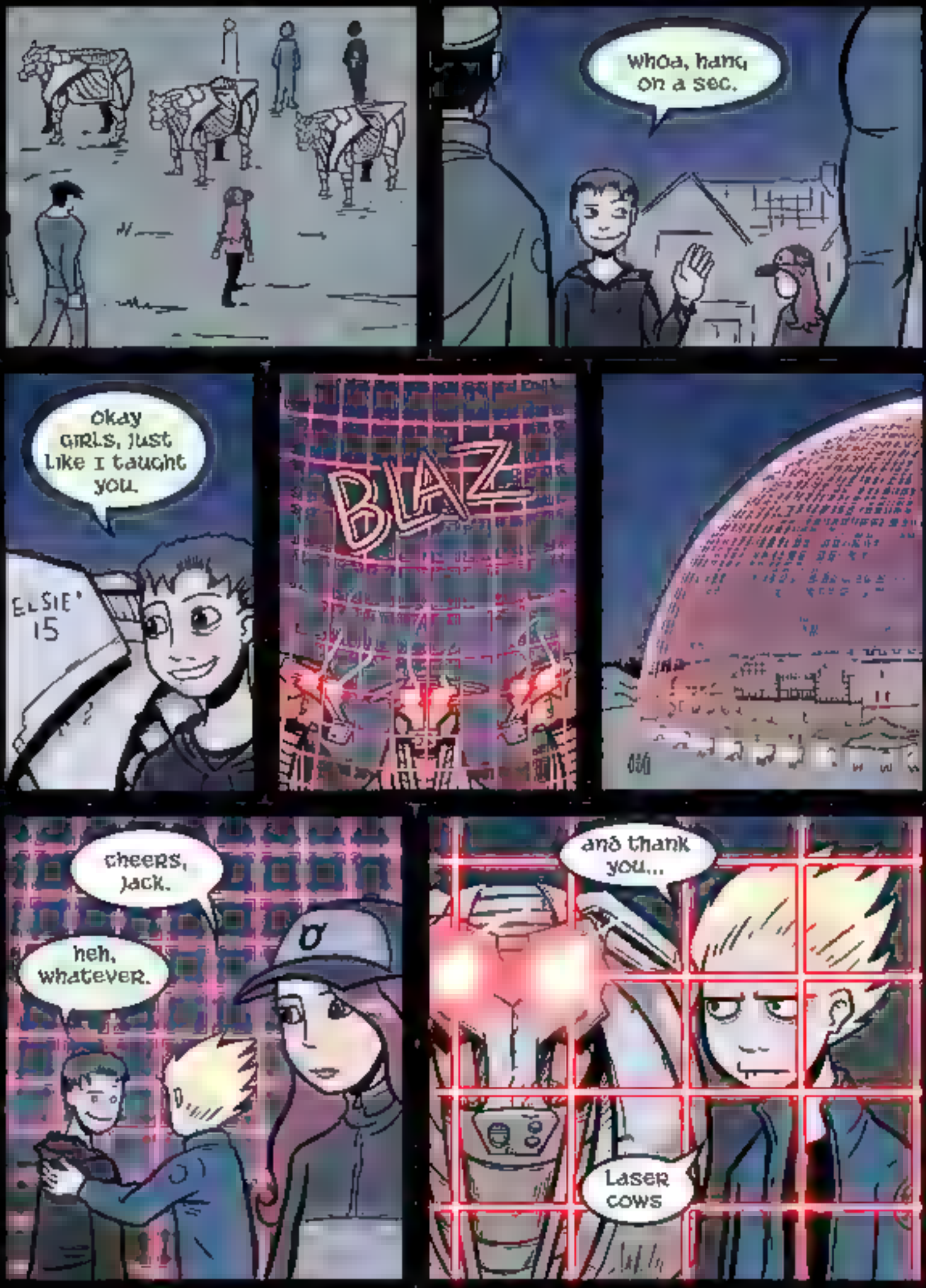
aiiieee!
THIS

BANG
BANG
what is it now?
mrs. sutton! there's a fire!
carver was trying to draw the ghost out from the trees but they caught alight!
what?! where?!
over by young's monument!
ahhh! my trees!
bob! james! there's a problem!

dammit! I knew playing with that blinker stone would be dangerous!
my trees!
FWOOSH
hello.
carver.

don't worry, mrs. sutton, your trees are fine.
wha...
you're a dryad, aren't you?
nah! well the cat's out of the bag now!
yes, I am
who better to help look after the trees in the park than a dryad, who can control and travel through the trees themselves.
that's how you were able to steal some of the students away so easily

well we would have had you all in the dorms at the suttons' house eventually, but it looks like you figured it out sooner than we thought
it's supposed to make the trip more interesting.
but why make us come all the way out here?
oh, that's so the rest of us could take over your house while you were distracted.
what?!
they covered up the tree in our house
that oughta do it!

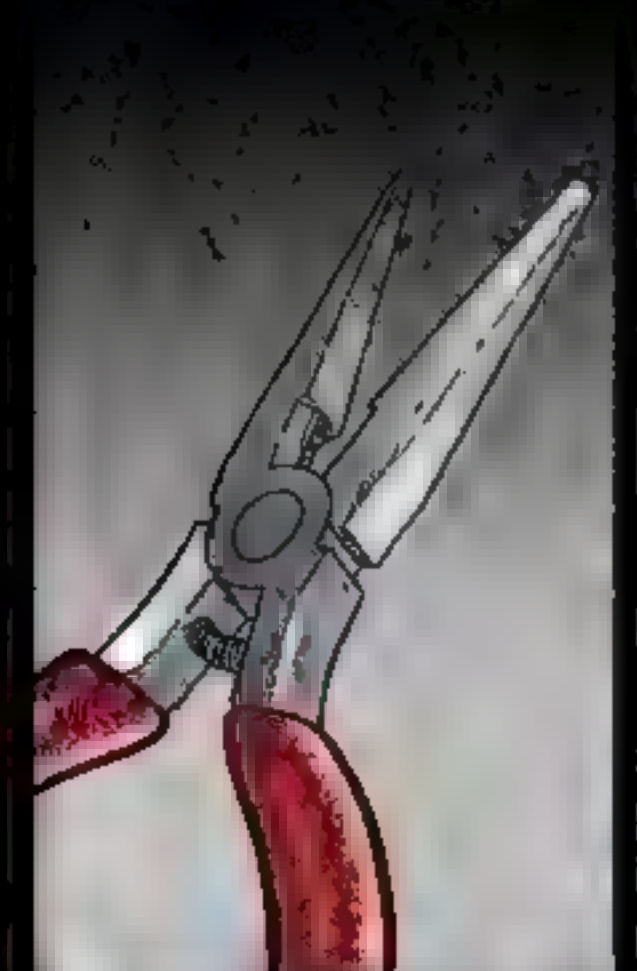

whoa, hang on a sec.
okay girls, just like I taught you.
ELSIE' 15
BLAZ
cheers, jack.
heh, whatever.
and thank you...
laser cows

well, you know where the tents are.
night!
hmm, there's a lesson in all this.
okay. let's hear it.
never let sixty angry kids use a herd of laser cows to take over your house.

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 25:

Sky Watcher And The Angel



sky watcher.
do you see anything interesting?
of course. I record meteorological data.
have you seen any angels in the sky?
don't be ridiculous. temperature. humidity radiation. no angels here
what if I told you I know of a place where an angel watches over a shrine?
I would say you are crazy.
what if I said the name jeanne?
she...
she died and we did nothing.

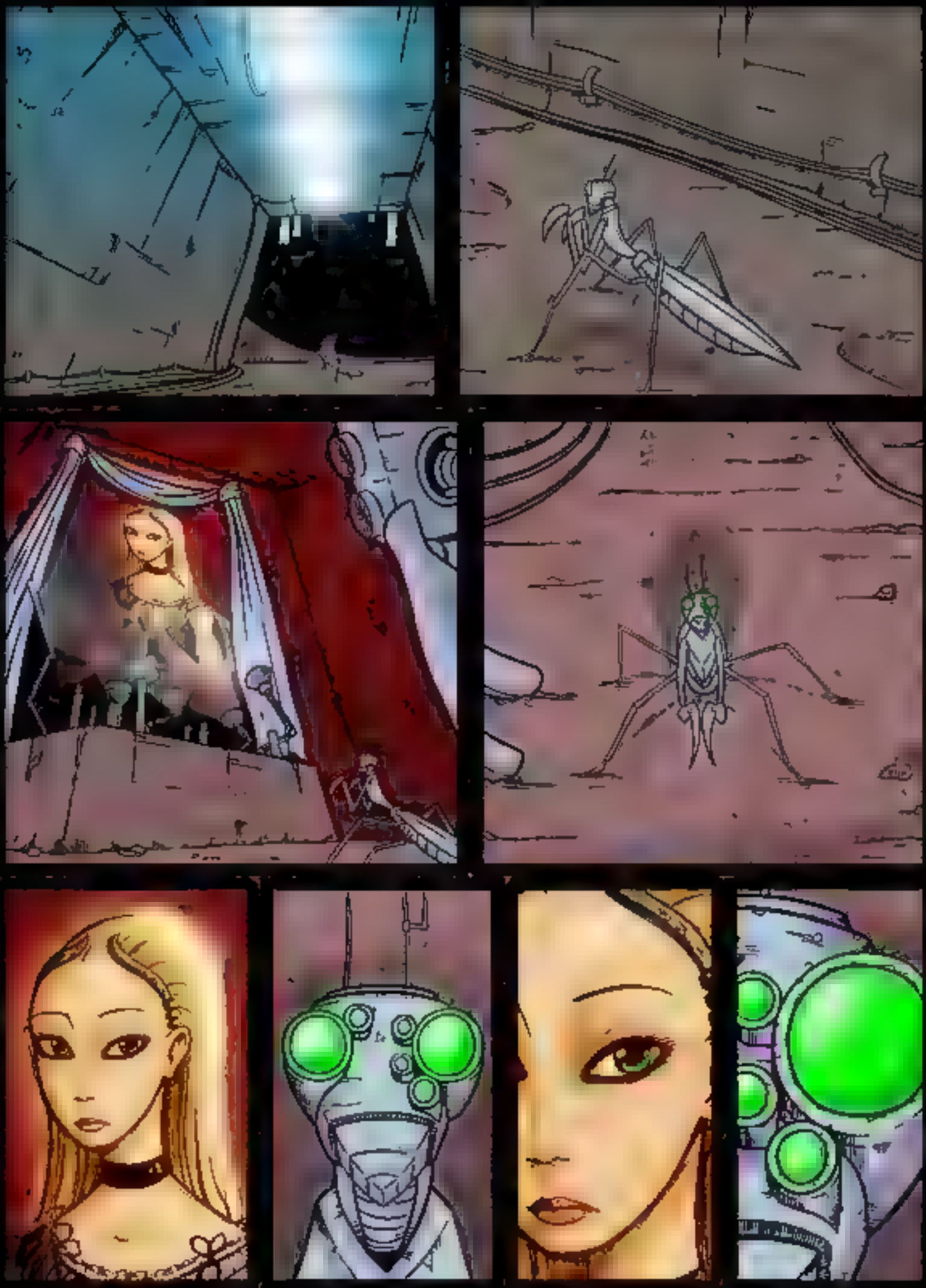
FOLLOW
ROBOT, SHOULD YOU REALLY BE CALLING KAT AN ANGEL?

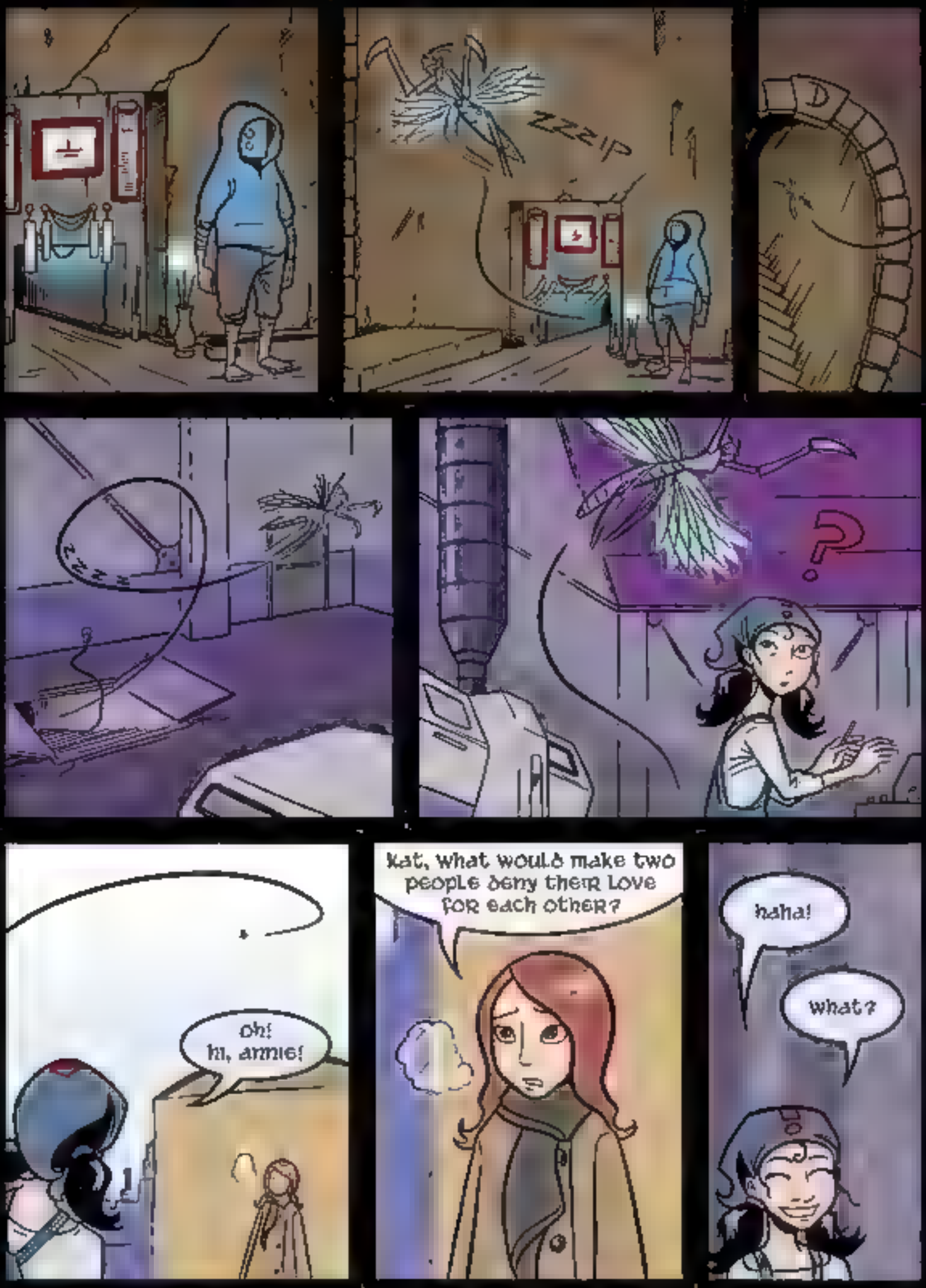
I mean, kat is just kat.
But she is an angel, Shadow, I'm sure of it.
Who else would be chosen to guard Jeanne's tomb ..
WHAM
But a beautiful angel?
hey, robot!
FLIP

how's the body holding up?
It is wonderful, kat much easier to get around than as a mouse.
hey, shadow
hi
well, go easy on it It's just cobbled together from spare parts
I'm still working on a proper body!
oh wow!
well now aren't you gorgeous!
never seen your model before!
hmm, let me guess what your primary function is...

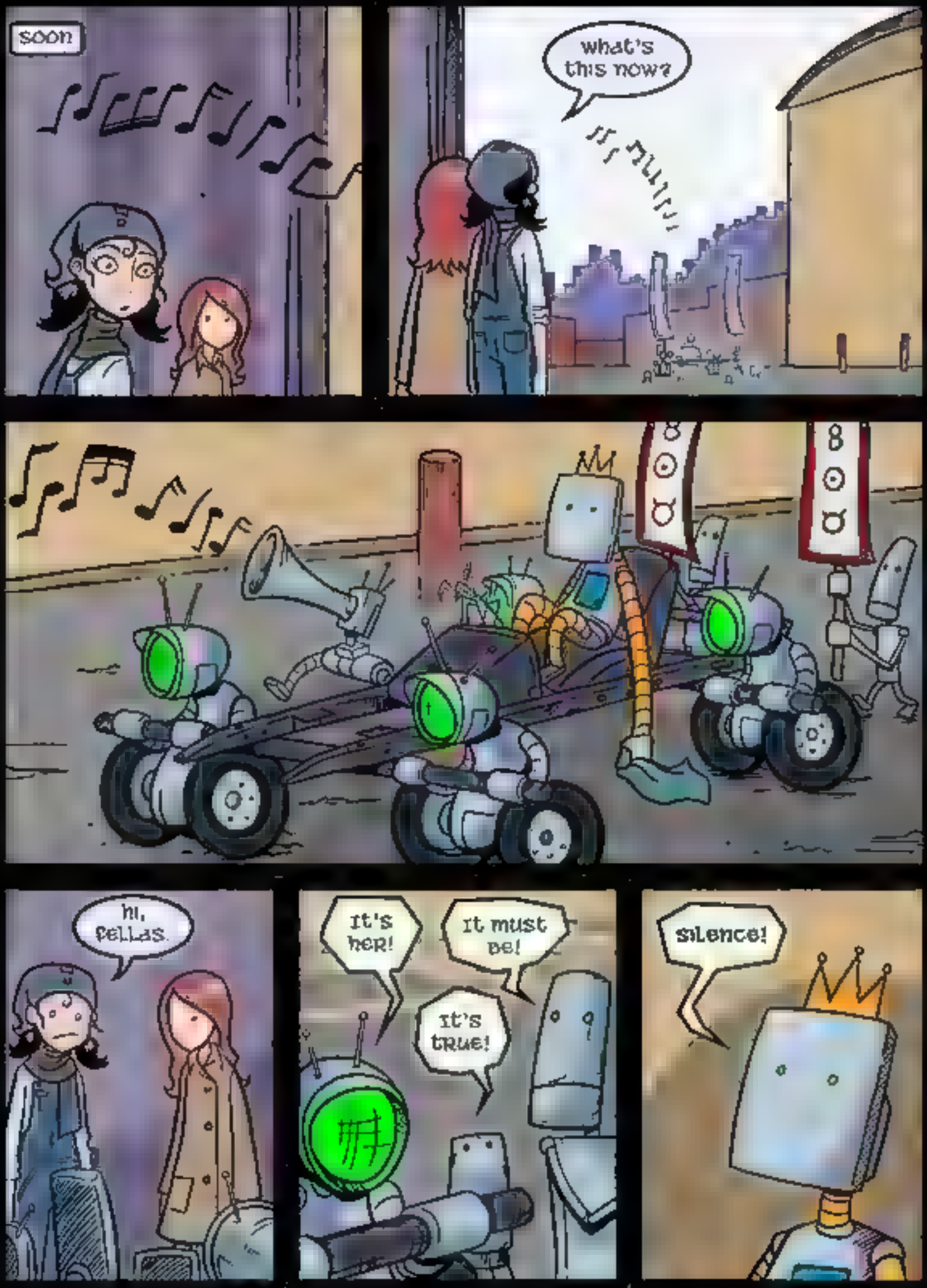
Let's set you down here
SNAP
TAP TAP
...
hmmm...
weather station?
ah! I I-I
haha, not much of a talker huh?
well, I guess you're here to see the painting. Robot will show you the way.
I told you she was an angel.
y-yes.

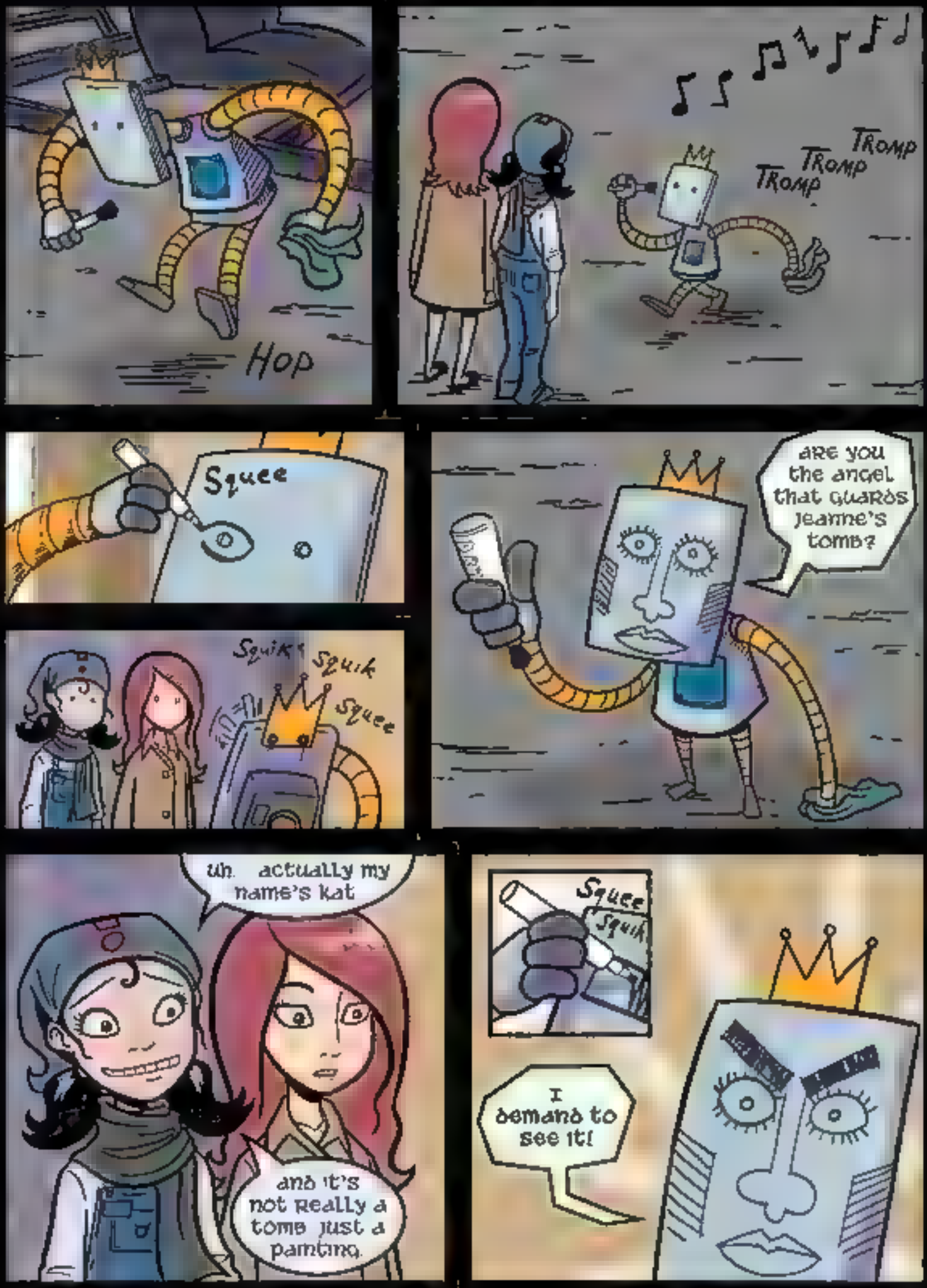
beneath this sheet lies the body of a terrible demon.
it had to be covered to stop upsetting visitors
this part you must do on your own.
please enter.




zzzip
?
Kat, what would make two people deny their love for each other?
haha!
what?
oh!
hi, annie!

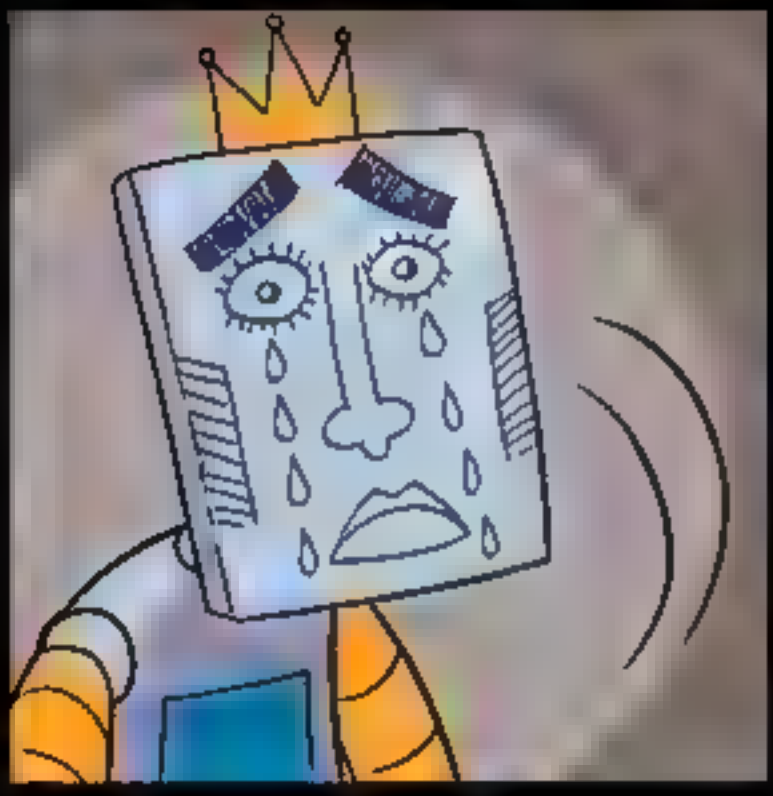
andrew and parley have become unbearable. they can't even look at each other now.
aw those two still acting funny?
yes. ever since she teleported us to her bedroom by accident
it's so painfully obvious they like each other
but now they act like enemies!
huh.
well, love can make you act in strange ways, I guess.
I thought love was supposed to be a good thing.
oh it totally is! but uh... I dunno. better to have loved and lost than to be... dead or something.
I don't think that's how the saying goes

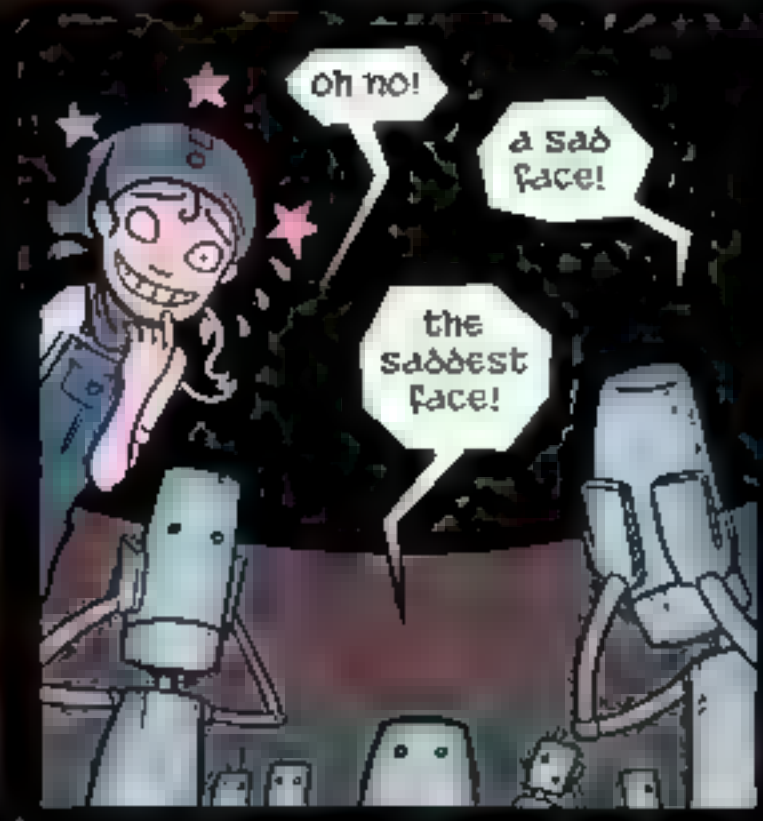

soon
what's this now?
mmm
hi, pellas.
It's her!
It must be!
It's true!
silence!


Hop
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
Squee
Squik
Squik
Squee
are you the angel that guards jeanne's tomb?
uh. actually my name's kat
and it's not really a tomb just a pantina.
Squee
Squik
I demand to see it!

Squee
Squnk

ahh! here he comes!

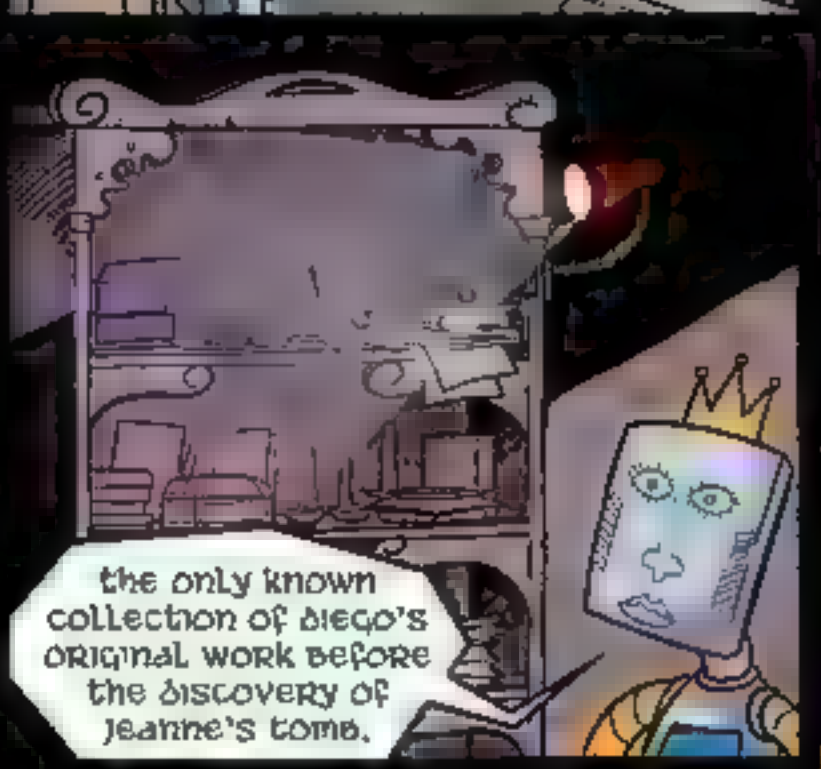


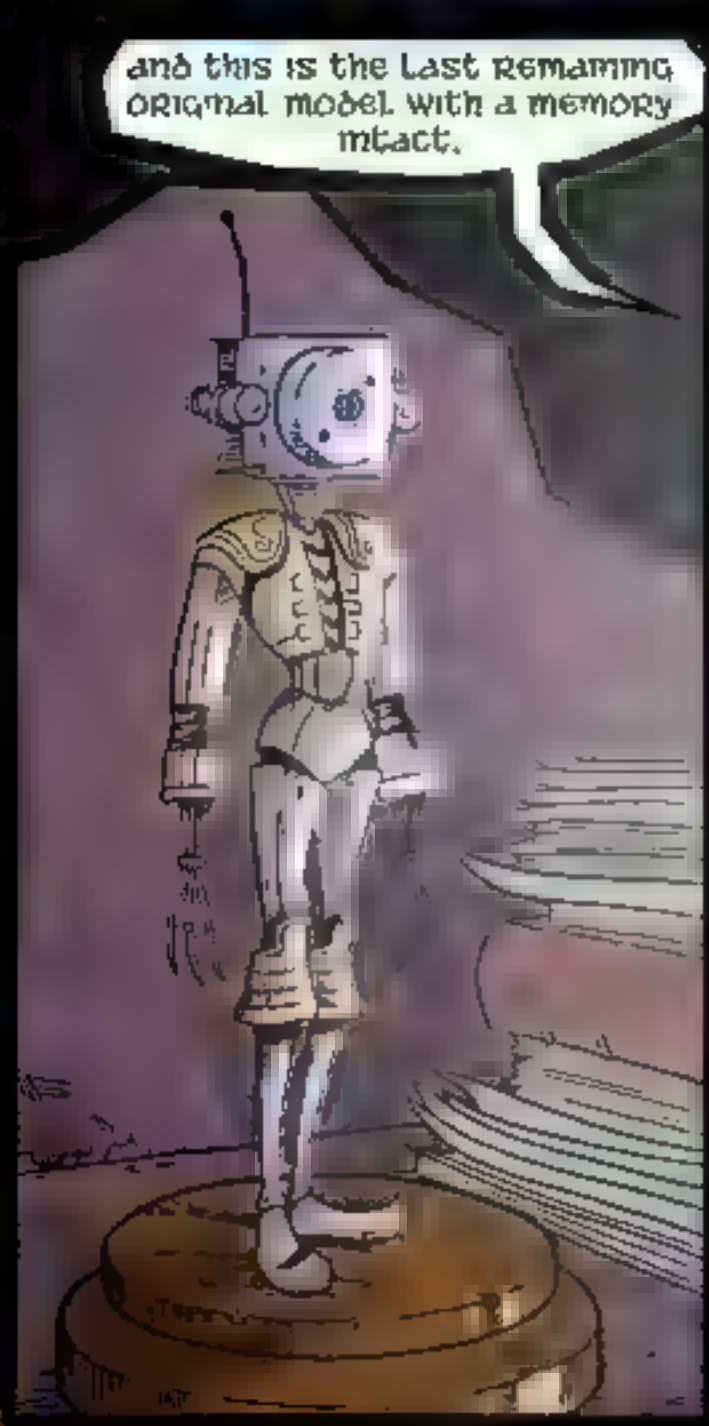

oh no!
a sad face!
the saddest face!

sweet angel, kat, we beg for your help!
for the longest time, the robot society has been in turmoil!
there is a problem we face and, at long last, you may be able to provide an answer!
uh... i'll help out if i can.
first you must come with us so we may show you the subject of our confusion!
TUG TUG
well sure. as long as annie can come
whatever you wish! away we go!
excuse me, why do you only make random notes?
I-I never learned to play

pardon me...
what symbol is that, at the very top of your banner?
It is the tic-toc. a mythical ornithonic, said to be older than the court itself.
mythical?
It was created by a divine being and sent to watch over us all.
so it was not made by diego, like the rest of you?
no

What is all this?


the only known collection of Diego's original work before the discovery of Jeanne's tomb.


and this is the last remaining original model with a memory intact.

please awaken and show us your story once more
CLICK
-aa! je! je!
jejeje! yes, perfect!
she will love you!

Click
Clack
Wrrr
Tic
Tic
Tic
another little toy, diego?
for you, jeanne! may it always keep you company!
sigh.
c'est merveilleux, diego. thank you.
you are sad again today, jeanne?

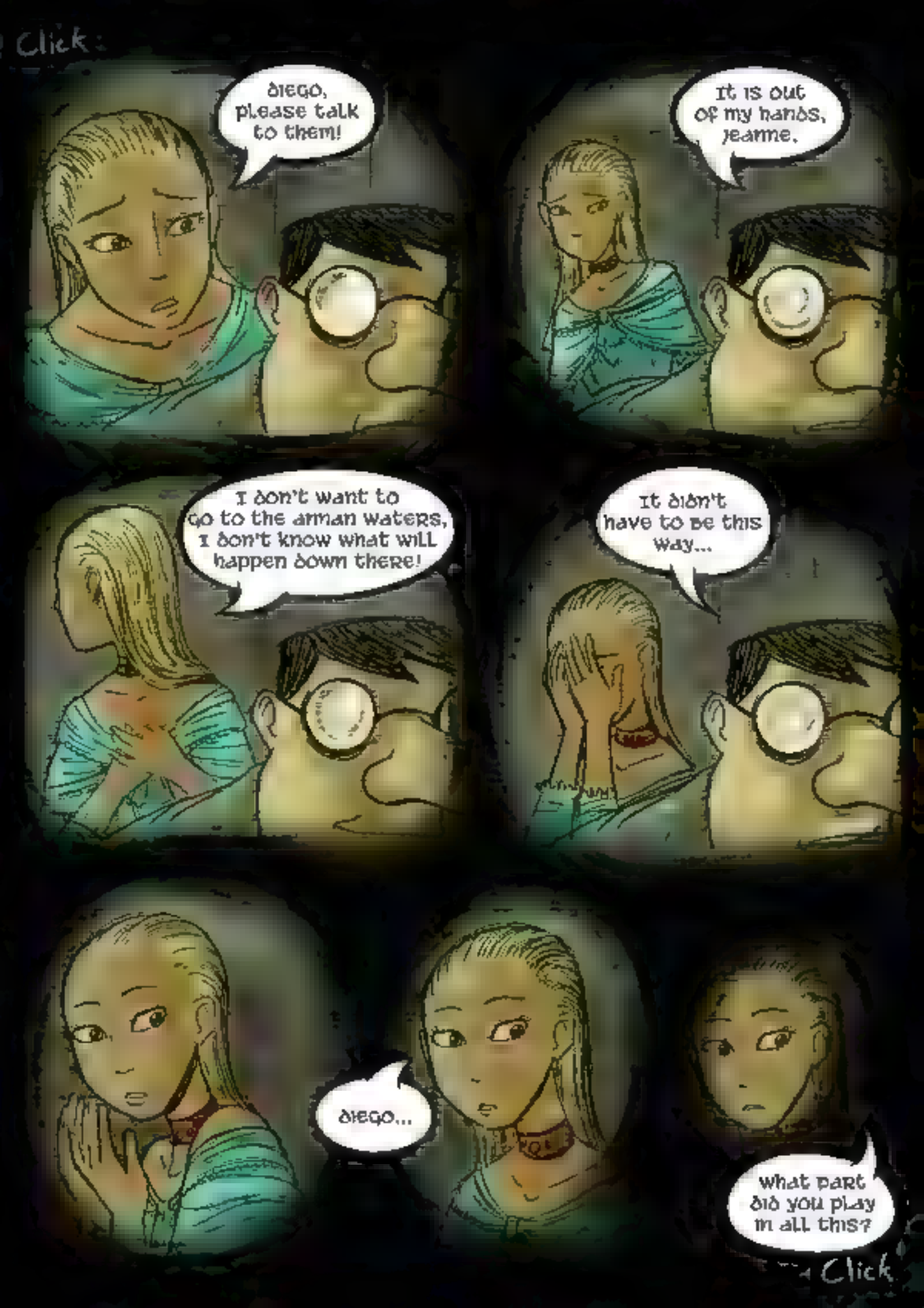
ever since coyote divided the forest we have been busy cutting down all the trees on our side.
yes! just as those animals have razed the buildings on their side!
but then what will we have, diego? when all the trees are gone?
a new life, jeanne!
a better life, of advancement and safety!
a better life? in our prison of stone and glass?
who needs the trees and animals of the forest?
I will make as many mechanical companions as you wish!
that's enough, diego.
I have instructed them all to love you!
-just as I do!

you need never think about him-
be quiet! don't you talk of him!
get out!
a-didn't you hear me? I said I lo-
get out you horrible little man!
Vrr
Vrr
CRASH
nooo!!

Jeanne, no! Please!
Vrr
Je te déteste!
Krk
Zee
Sniff
Snort
How could she?
How could she?
So she still loves that traitor, does she?
Tic
Tic
Instead of me?
Vrr

Click
Diego, my good man! the architect of our scheme!
the device is ready, sir young.
Vrr
steadman, what do you say?
hmm. it has an odd weight to it.
Vrr
I will make it fly true.
Vrr
fitting. I think, for the weighty task at hand.

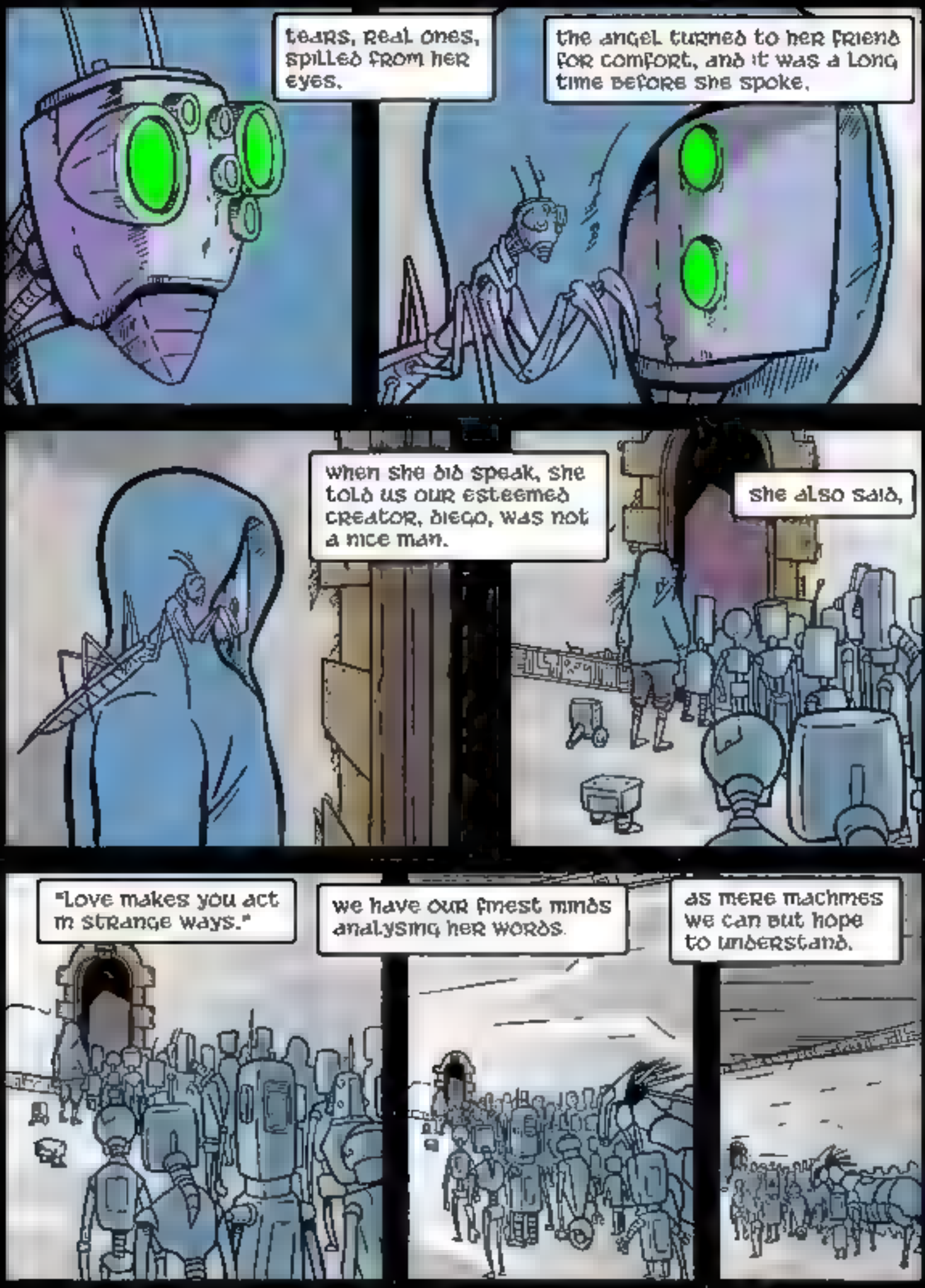
you know how I feel about this abhorrent plan of yours.
count me out of the proceedings
murmur
mrmr
murmr
gentlemen this is not a time for weakness.
we must take these steps to fortify the amman waters and protect the court.
but .. the one you have chosen as the sacrifice...
it must be jeanne
the plan will work with no one else
it must be her.
Click

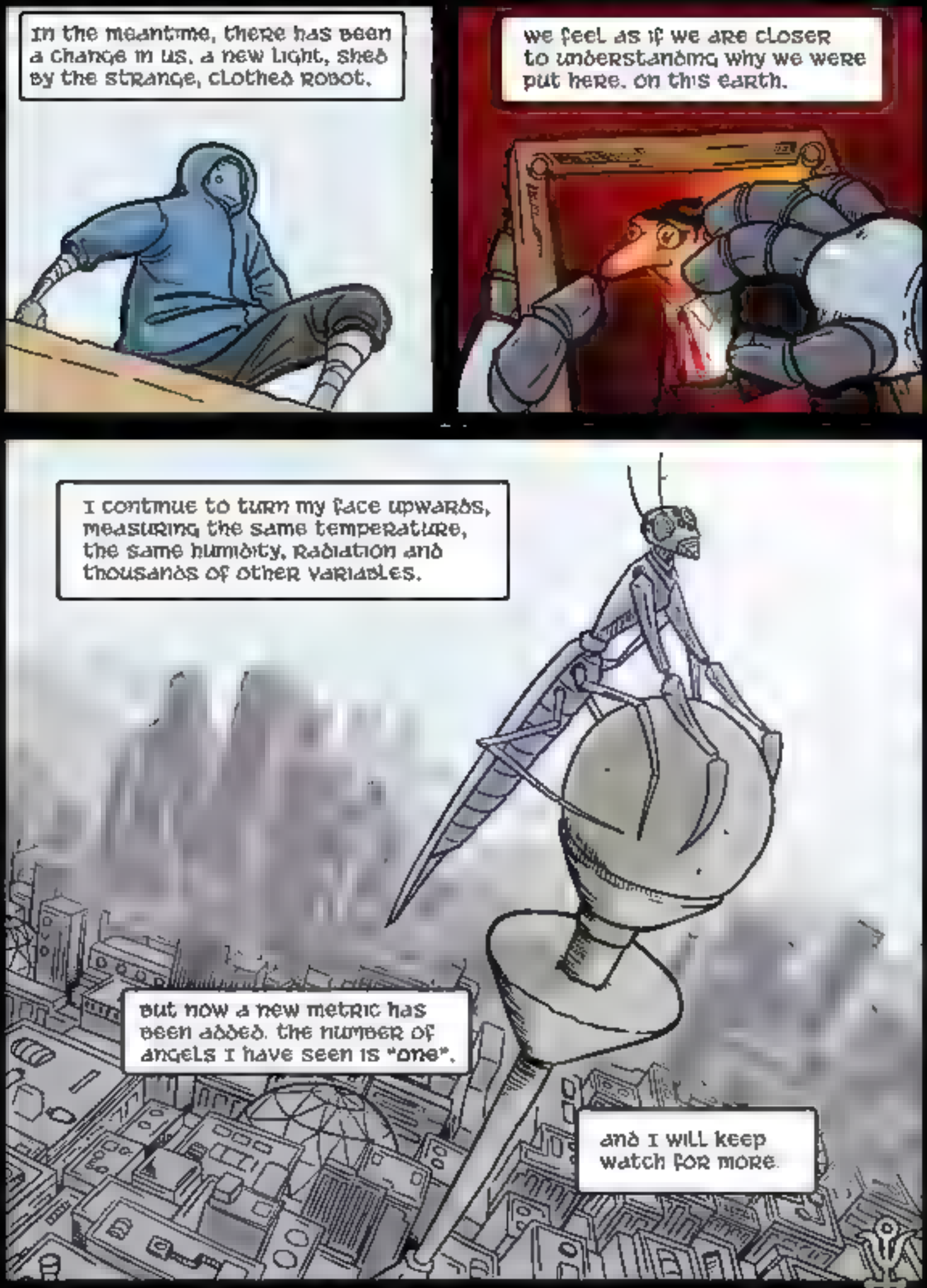

Click:
Diego, please talk to them!
It is out of my hands, Jeanne.
I don't want to go to the Arnan waters, I don't know what will happen down there!
It didn't have to be this way...
Diego...
What part did you play in all this?
Click

Click
the appropriate amount of time has passed. Jeanne was lowered to the edge of the arman waters three hours ago.
Ready the device, Steadman.
Vrrr
SH
Did you hit the target?
Of course.
Then it is done.
Vrr
Jeanne, the plan, everything, will be stricken from all records.
We will bury what was done here this night.
Click

Click
I had no choice...
It wasn't my fault
young... that monster!
he forced me to devise the plan...
she was... all alone, waiting... when she died.
jeanne...
and I did nothing.
my children...
my children...
we are here father
father?
Click

Click
now, please, dearest angel,
help us understand...
our wonderful creator, diego, loved jeanne, but condemned her to death.
why did he do this?
oh no!
a sad face!
the saddest face!


tears, real ones, spilled from her eyes.
the angel turned to her friend for comfort, and it was a long time before she spoke.
when she did speak, she told us our esteemed creator, diego, was not a nice man.
she also said,
"love makes you act in strange ways."
we have our finest minds analysing her words.
as mere machines we can but hope to understand.


In the meantime, there has been a change in us, a new light, shed by the strange, clothed robot.
We feel as if we are closer to understanding why we were put here, on this earth.
I continue to turn my face upwards, measuring the same temperature, the same humidity, radiation and thousands of other variables.
But now a new metric has been added. The number of angels I have seen is "one".
and I will keep watch for more.

Another year

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 26:

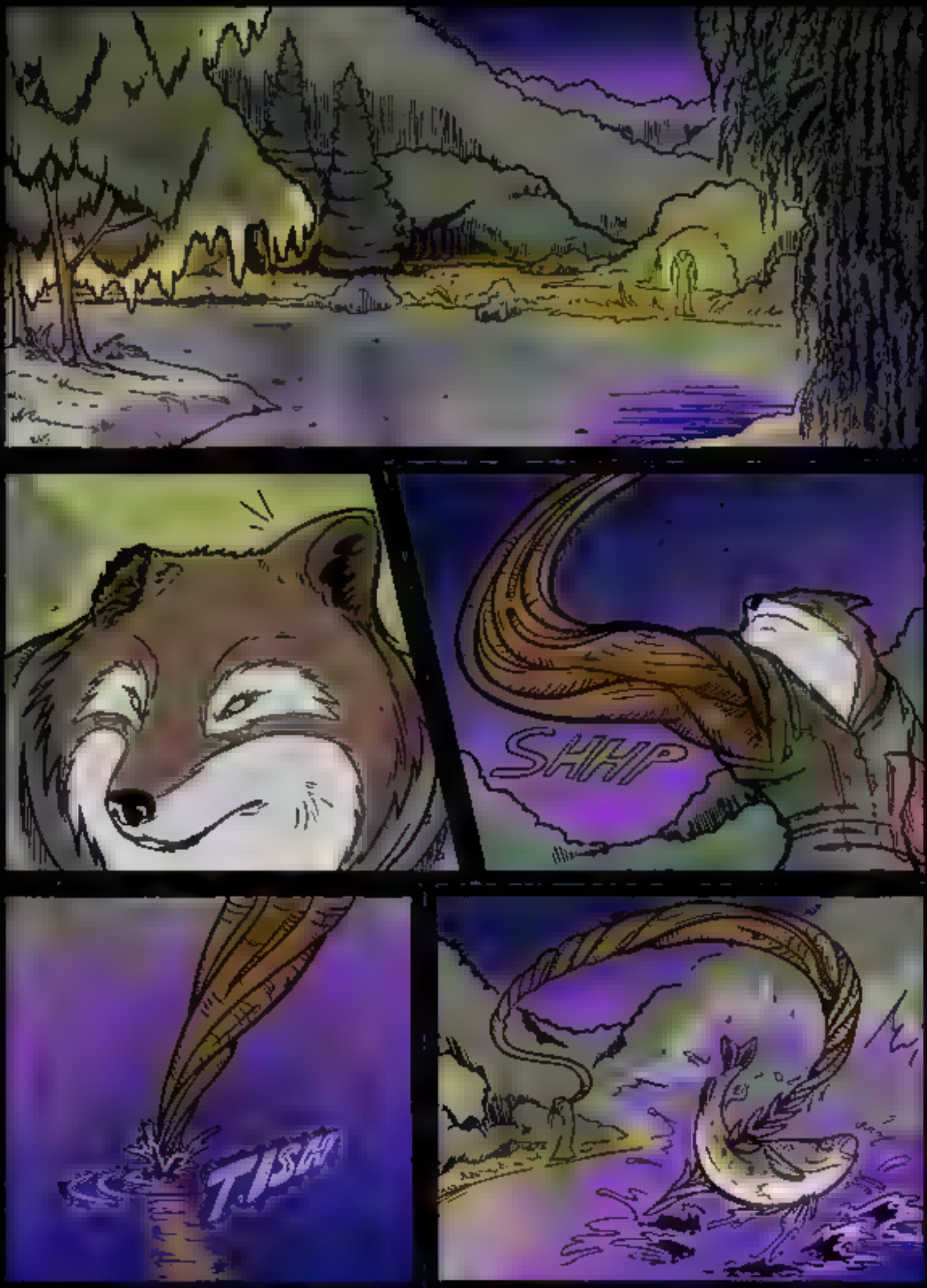
The Old Dog's Tricks

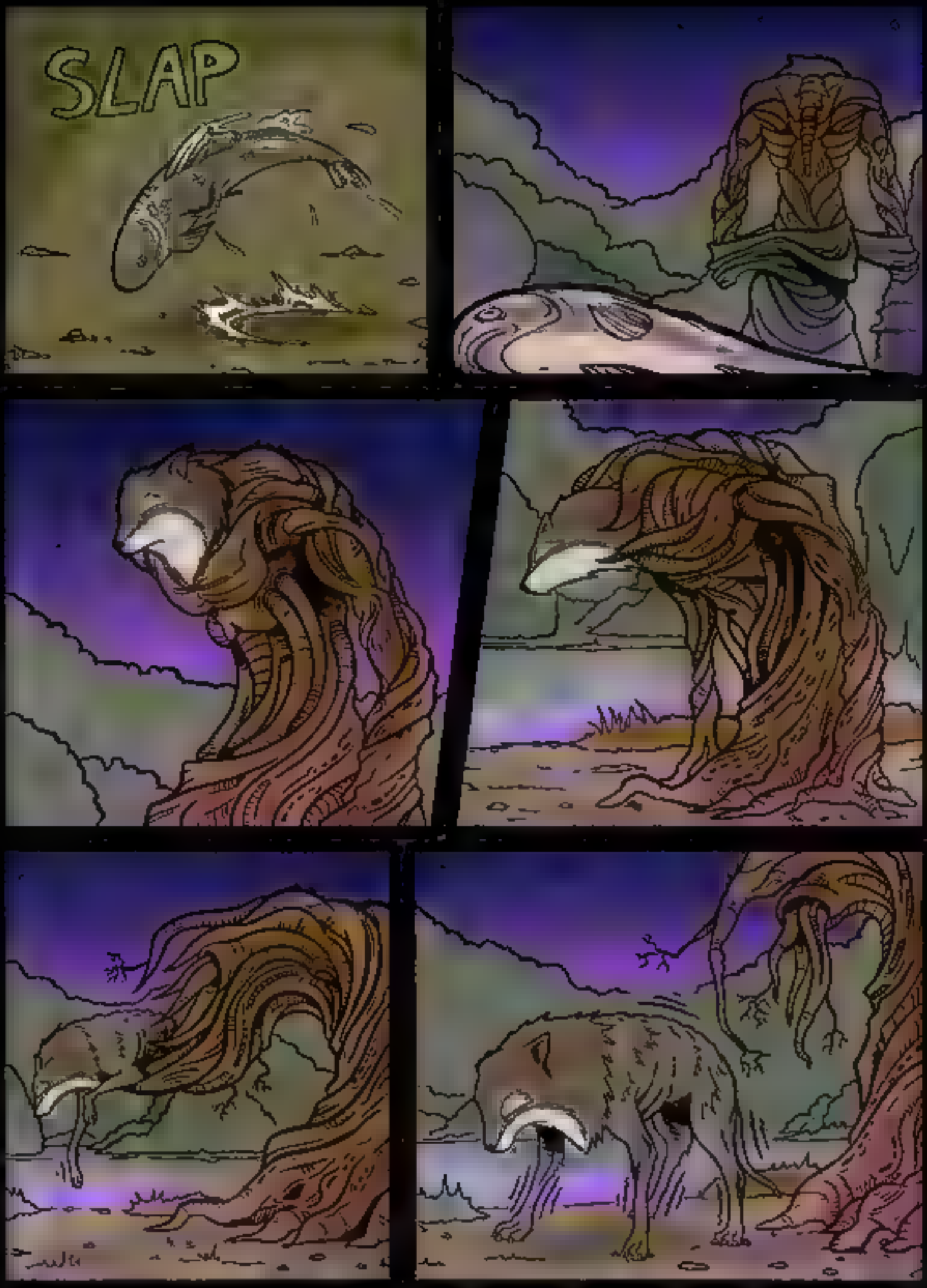
...
symbol's a little wonky, carver.
I'm still getting the hang of it
Rustle Rustle
'ello 'ello!

I am Jolly Elfsberry and Coyote sent me to greet you!
Why, you must be Acrimony Barber! The pleasure is all mine!
KISS KISS KISS
KISS KISS
KI-
What say we get going, eh?

you're not going anywhere with this guy, carver
oh come on, you can trust me!
isn't that right, fire head girl?
WINK
oh! yes! of course! you're coyote's friend!
see you later, mr. eglamore!
tata!

coyote, what are you up to?
wahahaha!
the look on his face! ahahaha!
and yours! did I strike you as a very handsome boy? haha!
where is ysengrin? I thought he was supposed to escort me into the forest
ah! well that is what I wanted to show you!
just be very quiet...


SHHP
TISH


SLAP

Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
FLOP
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Hrr
RFF
AFF
you see what he is? underneath?
qute pathetic, don't you think?
that's not a nice thing to say, coyote. I shouldn't be seeing this.
hmm. well. here is some advice.
stand your ground!
wha-

YOU!
RFF HUFF RRRR
RRRRRRFF
HFF HFF
RRRRFF
HURFF
RRRAFF
SNAP
SNAP

CREAK
SNAP
how dare you?
trespassing in my forest...
spying on me...
n - no, I...
If you were anyone else...

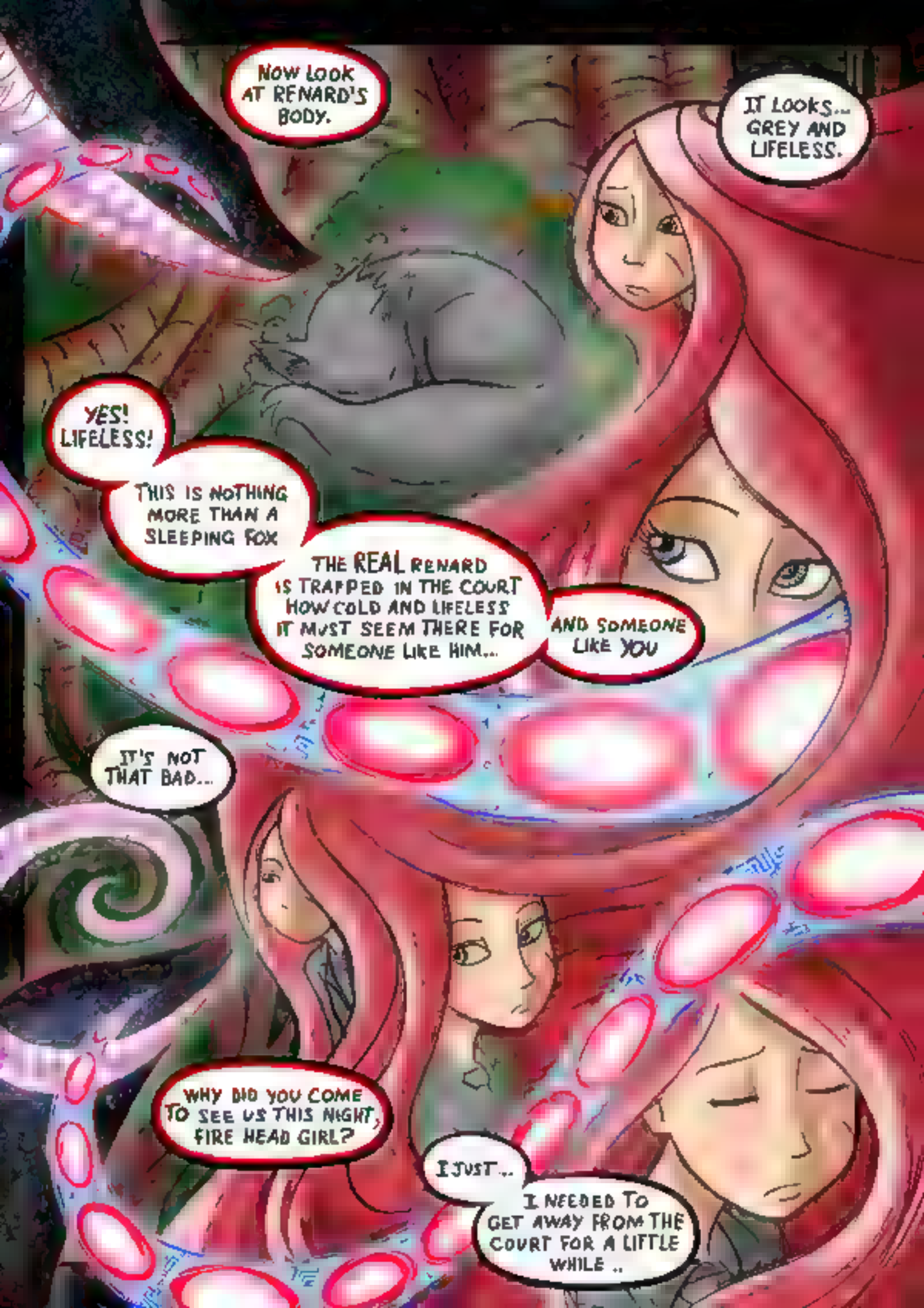
well now look who it is!
ysengrm, you should have told me fire head girl came to visit!
coyote I apologise
well, with such a horrible sky symbol, it's a wonder you saw her coming at all!
hahahaha!
also, put your clothes back on you old fool!
you seem a little shaken today, fire head!
and such a lovely scowl!
come, you may ride on my back!

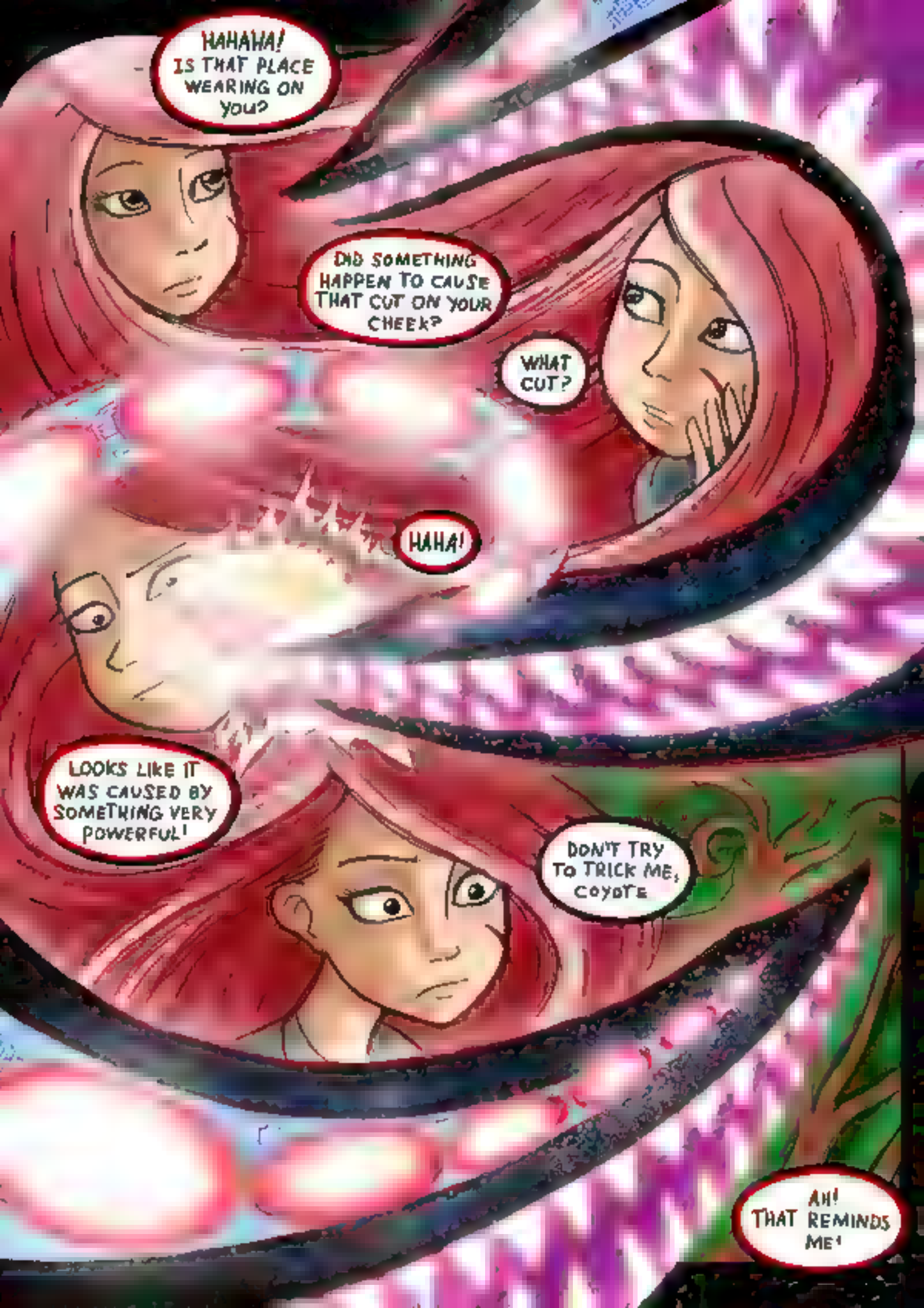
I'm very upset with you, coyote.
well! I was only being honest about your sky symbol!
no, I mean about-
you clearly need more practice with your blinker stone!
If you can't even use a child's toy, what hope do you have of becoming a fully fledged medium?!
I will show you a new trick or two before you leave tonight!
ah! here we are!

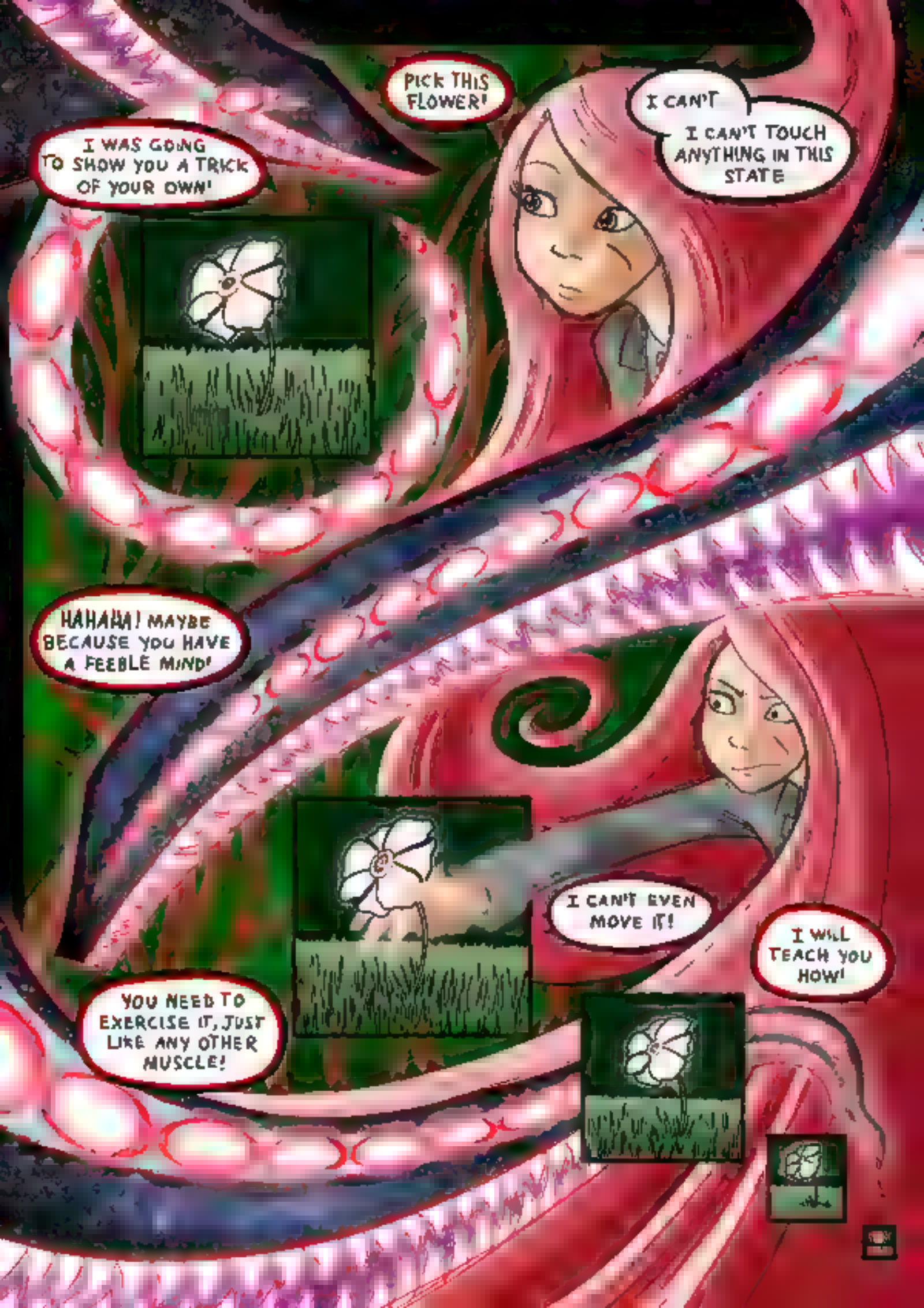
It's...
It is Renard's body!
I have preserved it!
Here it sleeps, awaiting his return.
Forever young and healthy.
You should let him know it is here waiting for him!

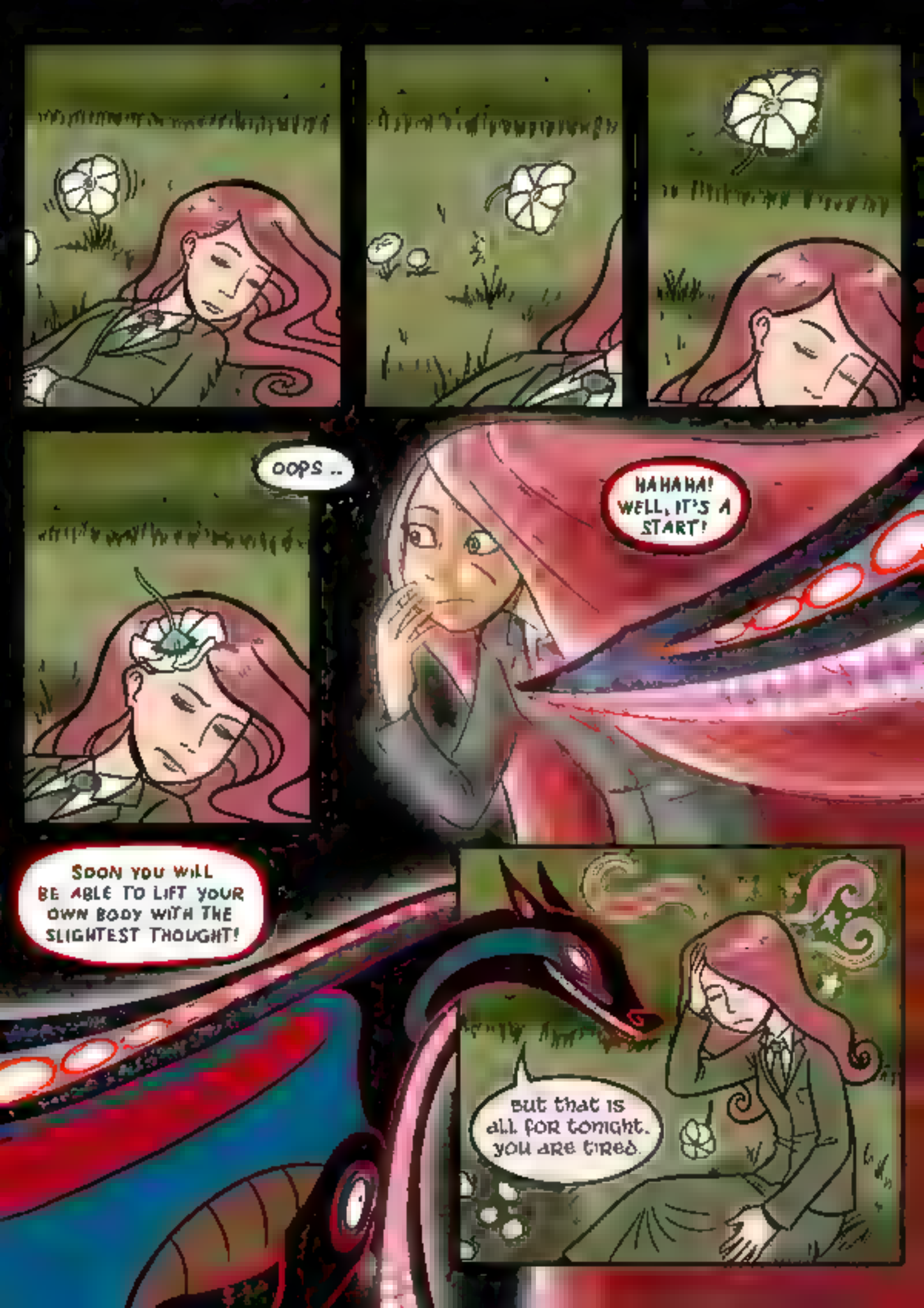
But there is another reason why I wanted you to see this!
You can use your blinker stone to peer into the ether, correct?
Call it to you! I want you to try it here.
Okay..
Now wait a minute, don't just~
Huff! Huff!
Hahahaha! Let's take this one step at a time, yes?
O-okay
Focus only on yourself and expand slowly...

OH, COYOTE... YOU'RE MAGNIFICENT...
AND TERRIFYING
AND YOU, YSENGRIN.. SO BEAUTIFUL.


NOW LOOK AT RENARD'S BODY.
IT LOOKS... GREY AND LIFELESS.
YES! LIFELESS!
THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SLEEPING FOX
THE REAL RENARD IS TRAPPED IN THE COURT HOW COLD AND LIFELESS IT MUST SEEM THERE FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM...
AND SOMEONE LIKE YOU
IT'S NOT THAT BAD...
WHY DID YOU COME TO SEE US THIS NIGHT, FIRE HEAD GIRL?
I JUST..
I NEEDED TO GET AWAY FROM THE COURT FOR A LITTLE WHILE ..


HAHAHA! IS THAT PLACE WEARING ON YOU?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO CAUSE THAT CUT ON YOUR CHEEK?
WHAT CUT?
HAHA!
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS CAUSED BY SOMETHING VERY POWERFUL!
DON'T TRY TO TRICK ME, COYOTE
AH! THAT REMINDS ME!


PICK THIS FLOWER!
I CAN'T
I CAN'T TOUCH ANYTHING IN THIS STATE
I WAS GOING TO SHOW YOU A TRICK OF YOUR OWN!
HAHAHA! MAYBE BECAUSE YOU HAVE A FEEBLE MIND!
I CAN'T EVEN MOVE IT!
I WILL TEACH YOU HOW!
YOU NEED TO EXERCISE IT, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER MUSCLE!


OOPS ..
HAHAHA! WELL, IT'S A START!
SOON YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LIFT YOUR OWN BODY WITH THE SLIGHTEST THOUGHT!
but that is all for tonight. you are tired.

no no, ysengrm will carry you back!
don't fall behind now!

ysengrin, I'm sorry.
hrmf.
never apologise for what is not your fault
when coyote appeared, I realised he had deceived you into that situation.
...

this is far enough! I will take her the rest of the way!
see you soon.
hrmf.

I'm still upset with you.
Oh come now!
I showed you many important things!
you saw three ysengrms tonight:
the way others see him, the way he sees himself, and the way he truly is.
I want you to keep m mind the real ysengrm!
but which-
as an apology, I will give you a gift!

CRACK
the keenest blade you will ever find!
be careful with it, because it could cut the very earth!
hahahaha!
um.. thank you, but now you have a tooth missing...
hmm... ah, here we are!
good as new!

carver. everthing alright? your sky symbol disappeared.
yes, everything is fine
farewell, fire head girl! handsome lord coyote is very fond of you!
kiss kiss
so, when do you start teaching students how to use a sword?

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 27:

Spring Heeled

stop!
get back here!
this way!
whoops!
Skii
hoooff!
ah, there you are.

here! he's here!
bye!
dammit!

argh! he's gone!
gone where?
I dunno! just gone!
never mind, shell. good work.
thanks.
nothing to see here, kids. go back to your educations!
that was jack hyland!
he's been acting real crazy lately!
haven't seen him in ages, thought he was off sick!
what does the note say, annie?!
I'll.... read it later.
awww!

Later.
am't happening. he can't seriously expect you to go there alone.
Meet me at the building by the lake tonight.
10 00
13th Floor
Bring the wolf
but he says to bring Reynardine.
even so. he was tainted by that demon girl.
there is no knowing what he is up to.
don't call zimmy a demon girl!
annie, Rey is right.
I know, I know, but... I think I shouldn't have been so quick to dismiss Jack.
I think he needs help.
Let him deal with it on his own

If anything happens to Annie, your butt is a football.
If there is any kicking of rear-ends to be done this night, I shall be the one doing it, if this jack character steps out of line
Perhaps if she didn't meddle so much we might not have to be so concerned for her safety
True, true.
yes, very subtle, my friends.
that night
Reynardine, I'm worried about Kat.

ever since the robots showed us what happened to jeanne she's been...
callous... almost bitter.
hmm
she's spent her whole life here in the court, yes?
and now she finds out her home was founded by people willing to sacrifice others to protect themselves?
it's one thing to read about it in a history book, but seeing it almost first-hand as the two of you did, I'm not surprised her outlook has darkened.
katerma is a sensitive girl.
but also a strong one.
she'll pull through

CLANG
CLANG
CREAK
ha! you're here! excellent, excellent!
Scratch
no need to wait around anymore, let's get going!
tonight, we're going to the power station!

Wait, Jack! What IS all this?!
Jack!
CRE-EAK
RATTLE
you can't be serious...
haha! there's no other way to the station.
you gotta go by boat!

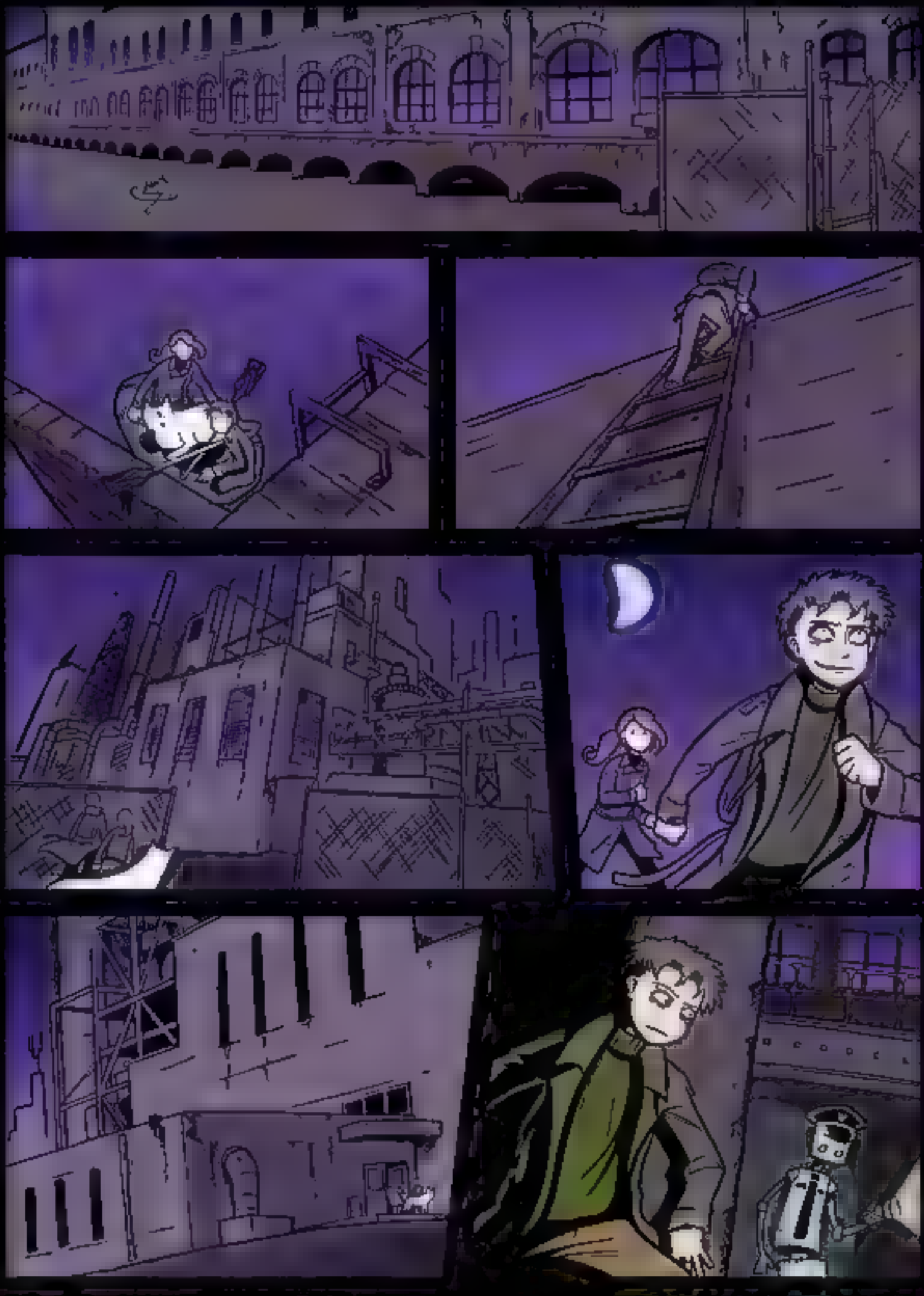
Jack, why do you need to go across the Lake?
Why did you ask me to come here?
I gotta find out what happened that night...
I'm either going to find the answer with Zimmy, or the power station.
And since I can't find Zimmy, I only got one choice...
And you... you're the only other person that knows what happened.
I saw you...
You saw me?
Walking around that... place, with Zimmy that's where I saw you.

why didn't you call out to us?
haha, I guess you didn't hear me, 'cos I did.
what did you see over there, Jack?
just stuff.
things in the windows, animals on the street and in the alleys ..
and...
heh, it ain't important.
seeing the world through that demon girl's eyes cannot be easy to bear.
haha, yeah, it was pretty crazy, Renard.
?
that's your real name, right?
I read it on the computer

the computer?
yeah, the school network is easy to root around in
but it's a closed system. completely shut off from the rest of the court
I couldn't find anything about the power station, or anything outside the school.
they got basic stuff on the school network
information on all the students, like.
I read all about you two.
how you tried to kill her.
and about how your dad ditched you.
haha, don't worry about it. none of my business really
I was looking for information on zimmy. but everything on students from chester and foley is blocked off
oh, hey! did you know you got a kid in your class that can talk to animals?!

you know, a lot of people are looking for you.
you're in a large amount of trouble.
haha, yeah, I know, but I got them beat!
I know how to stay hidden!
see, they track people with food! all the food has these little... things in it the court uses to track movement and vital statistics and all that!
I haven't eaten in days, so they can't find me!
jack! you have to eat! you'll become ill if you don't.
wise than I am now? haha!
wouldn't it make more sense to hide tracking devices in our clothes?
all our clothes come from the court
hmm... then maybe we should-
do not finish that sentence if you know what's good for you, boy!

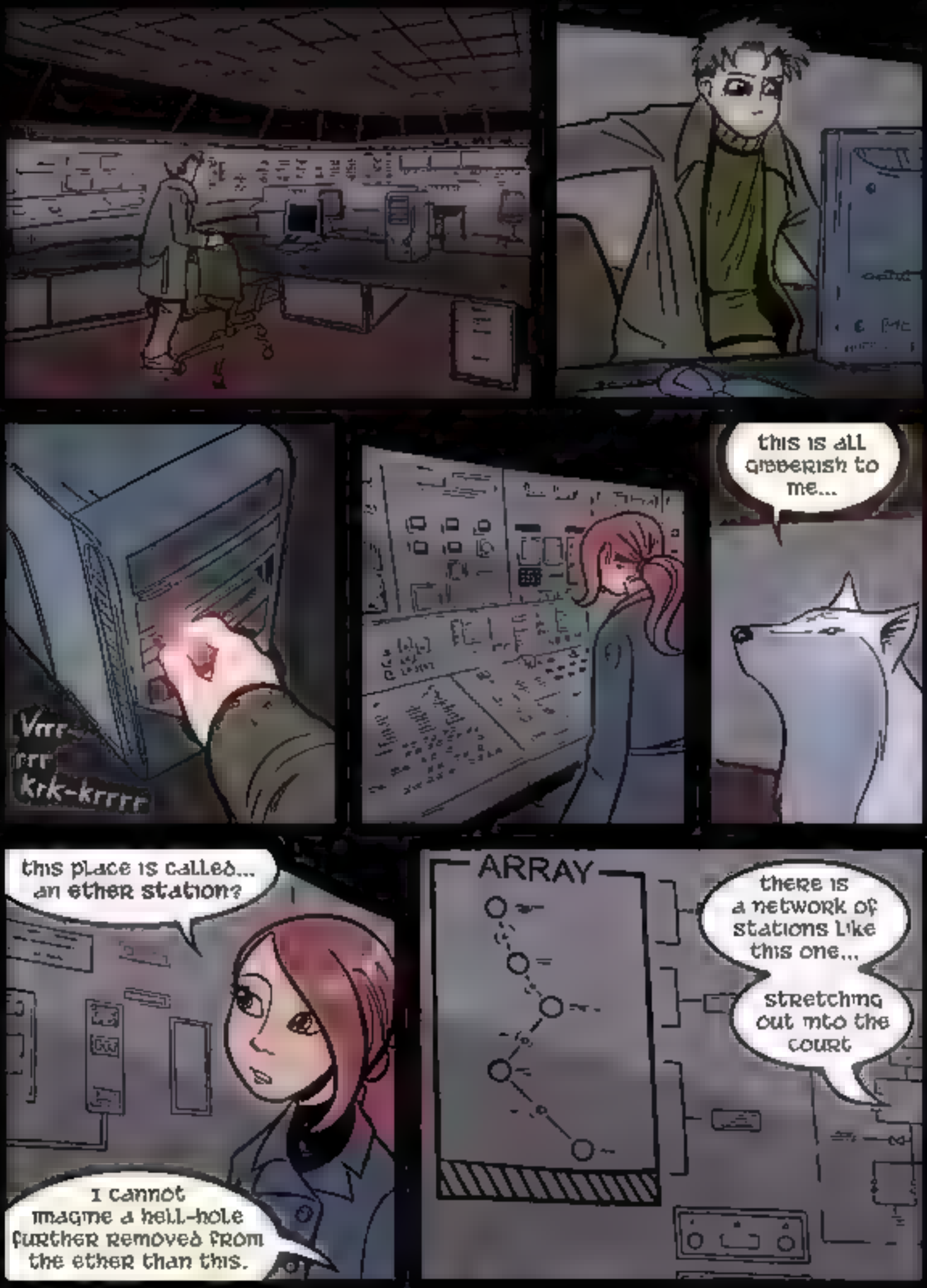
jeez, rowing is harder than I thought
heh. I can see you when you do that.



whistle.
whistle whistle.
hmm, saying "whistle" just doesn't sound right
CRUNCH
jack? what was that noise?
oh no!
oh, what did you do?! he's dead!
so what? it's just a dumb robot. let's get going.

hang on.
now what are you doing?
security
anyone comes this way, I'll know about it

here! this is what I was looking for!
CONTROL ROOM
damn, it's locked.
It looks like an RFID lock
I'm gonna get something to bust it open
wait! before you smash anything else!
CONTROL ROOM
PRESS TO OPEN
haha, excellent!


Vrrr-
krk-krrrr
this is all gibberish to me...
this place is called... an ether station?
I cannot imagine a hell-hole further removed from the ether than this.
ARRAY
there is a network of stations like this one...
stretching out into the court

It's some sort of collector and purifier?
ether
It extracts, filters and transmits energy through an antenna array.
I guess you'd call this energy "ether"
What? they would meddle with the very fabric of existence in such a way?!
to what end?!
What else does the computer say? did you find what you were looking for?
oh, I wasn't really looking for information.
I already knew what this place was
STARTUP PROCEDURE
CLICK

MMMMMMM
VOOOOOOOOOO
Jack!

hahaha! If she won't show herself, I'm gonna make her come to me!
Click Click Click
this has got to get her attention!
why are you acting like this, jack?
you need help and this isn't the way to get it!
there's something wrong with you, I've seen it!
come on, child, leave him to his crazy games. someone is bound to hear all this noise, we have to go!
DOCK
huh?
DOCK

how'd they get here so fast?!
they must've tracked you to get to me!
just let them come! we'll explain what happened and get you some help!
I don't need their help!
I just need to see her again...

wait, wait!
what is it?
almost forgot!
Click
FZZAP
GRaahh!

Reynard/me!
don't touch him!
what's happening?!
It's a binding program I found on the computer! I changed it a little
the court's been waiting for Renard to screw up, so while they're here busy with him, I can go and deal with Zimmy!
no! let him go! he's in pain!
don't you see? I'm doing you a favour!
forget about him!
I can get us back across the lake!
I'll carry you!

you're insane, jack! you're not making any sense!
no you're crazy! renard tried to kill you! just leave him here!
I don't care! he's my friend!
fine. whatever
have it your way. you can keep them busy for me too.

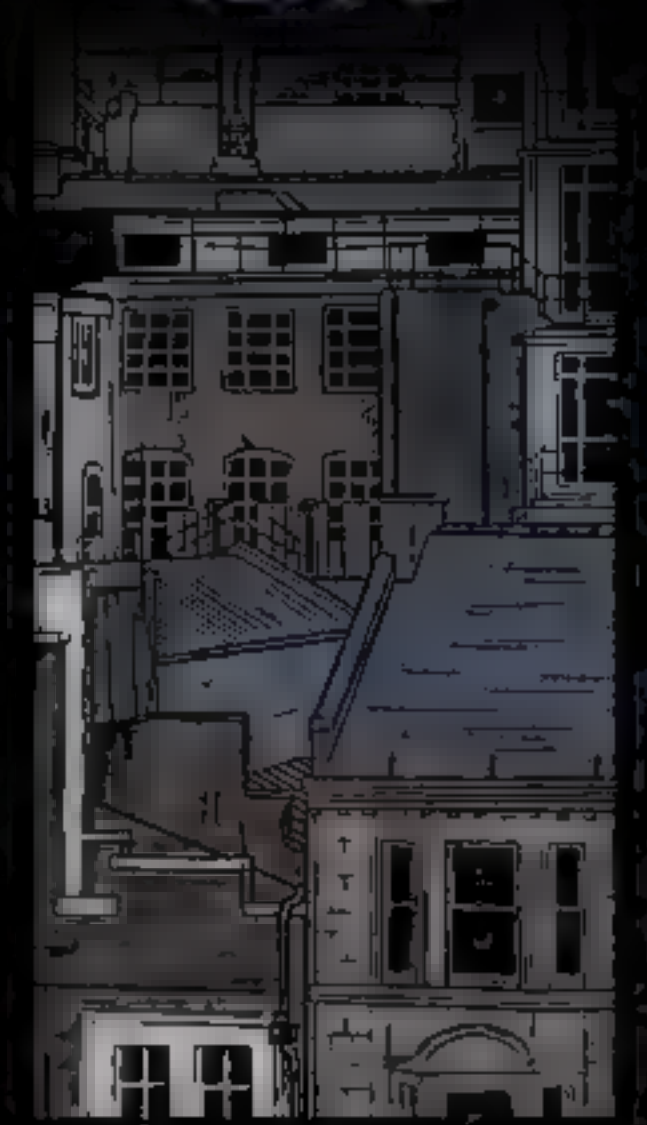
what's going on here?!
to be continued

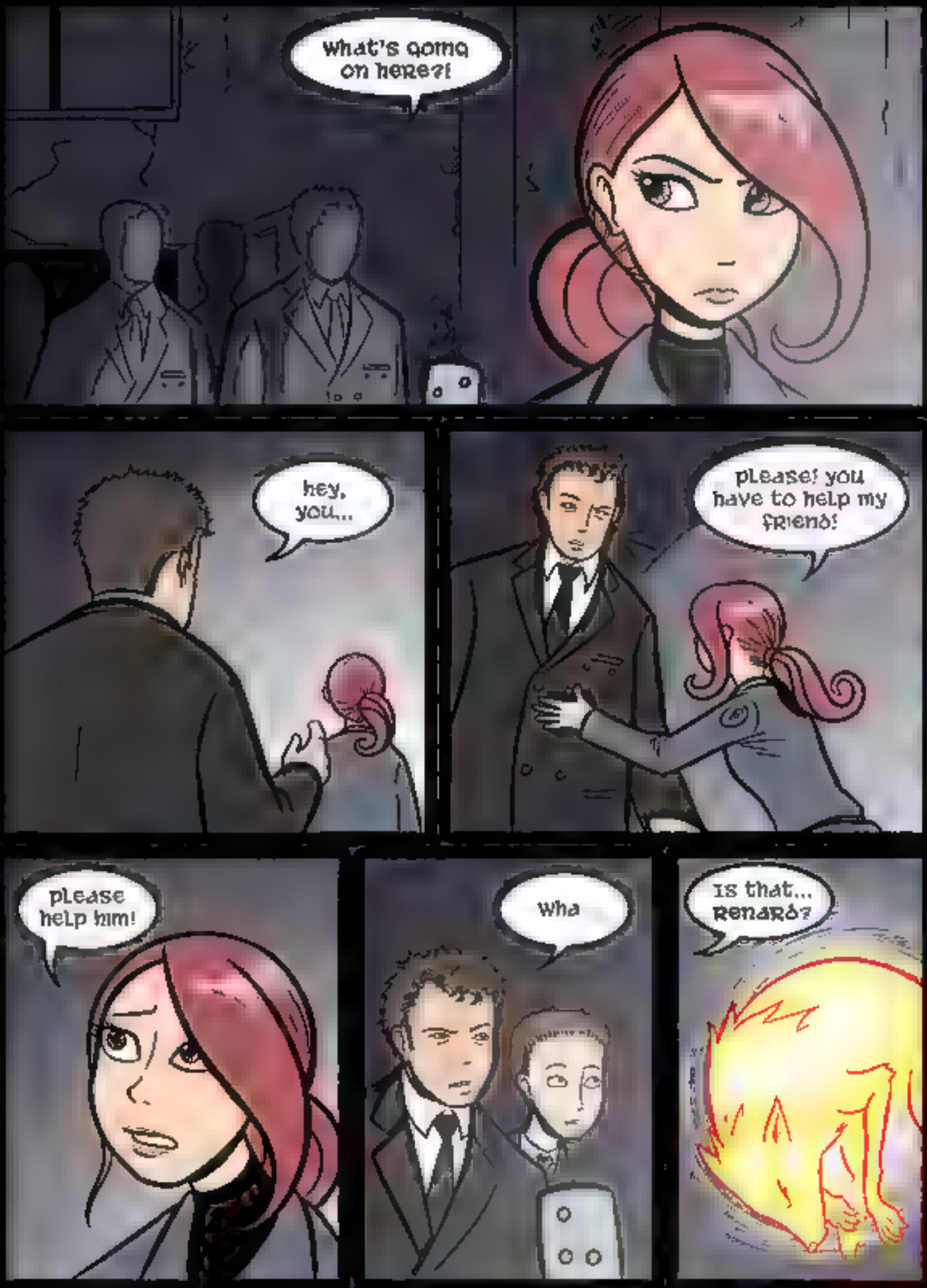
Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 28:

Spring Heeled

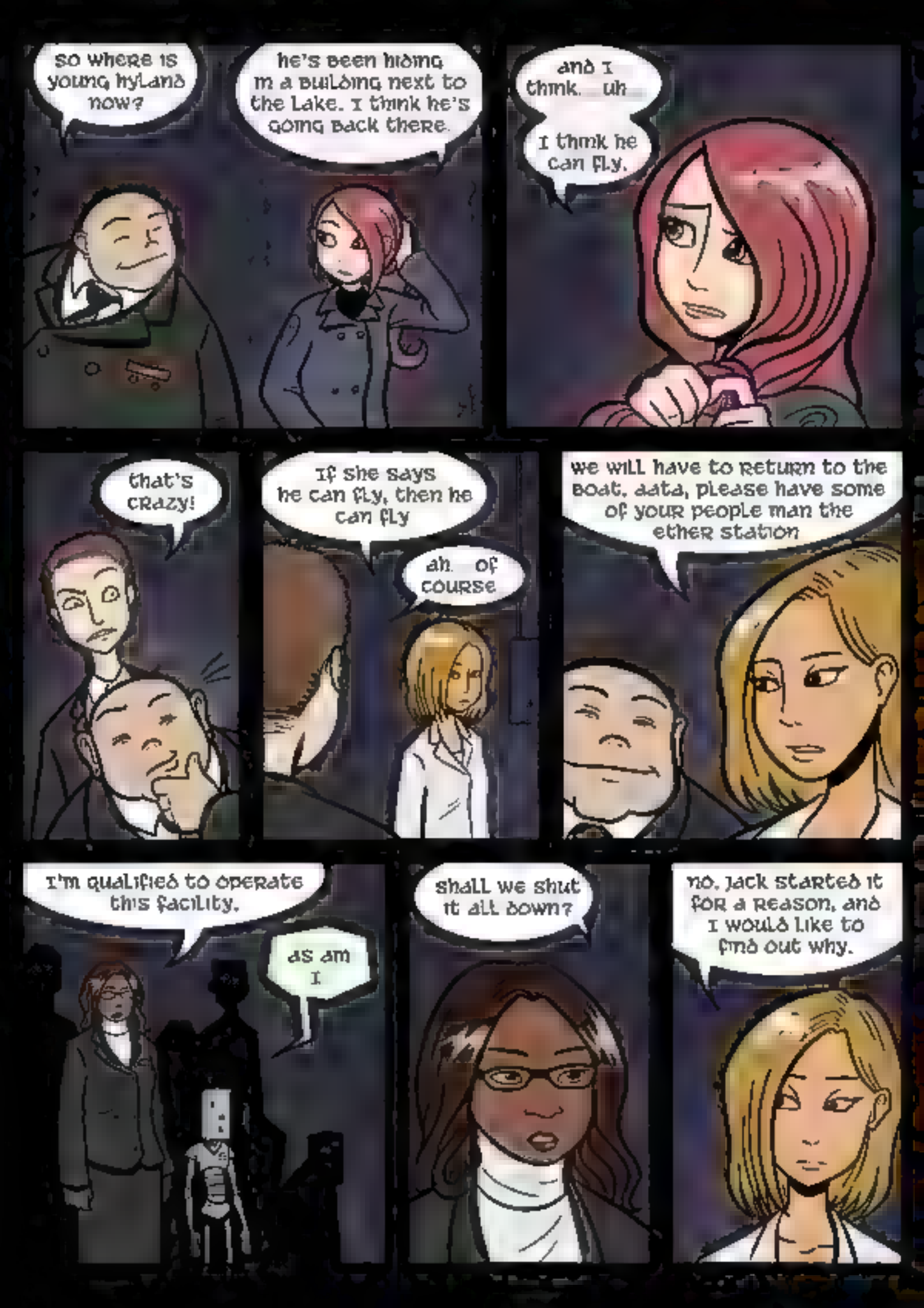
Part 2

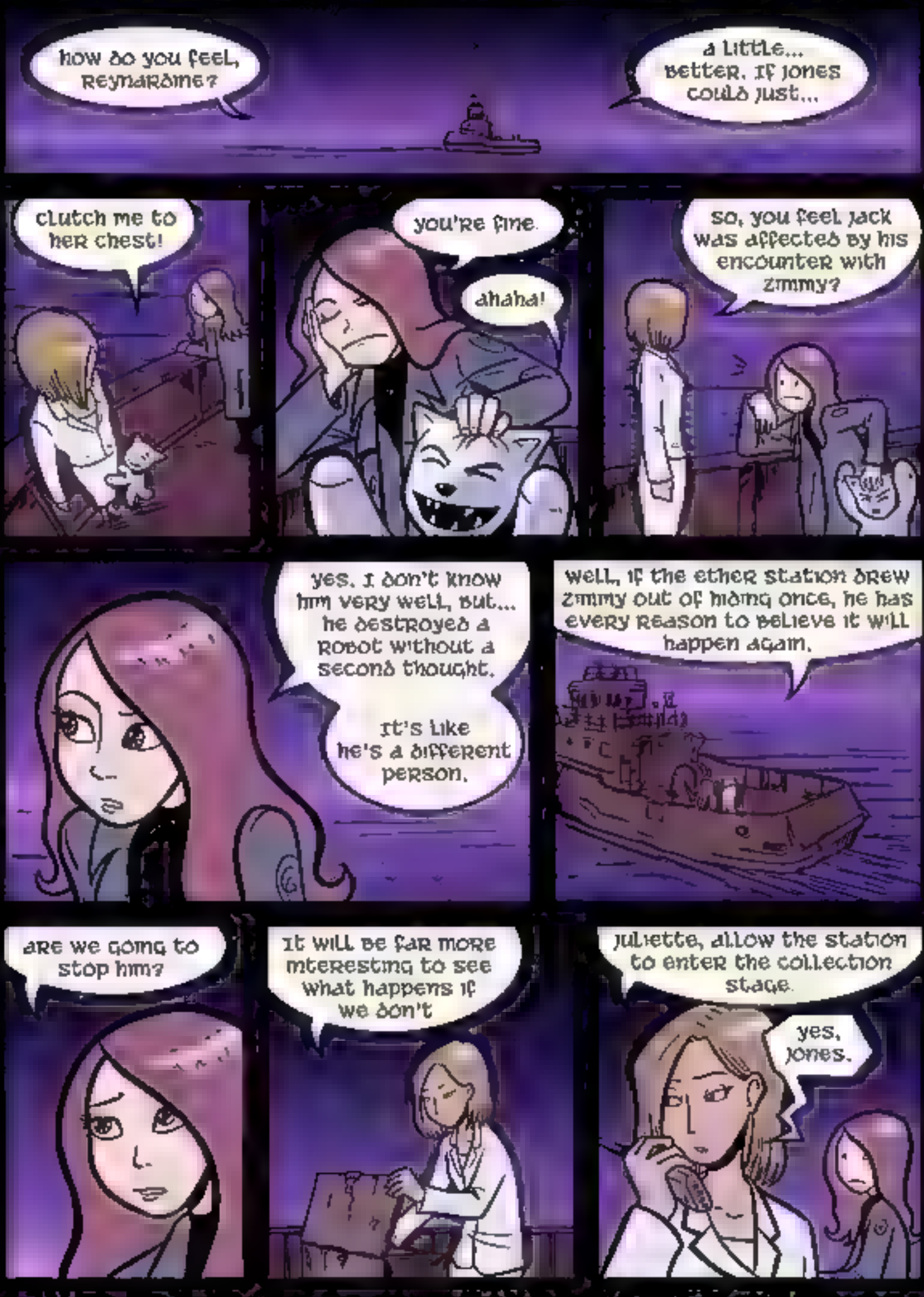


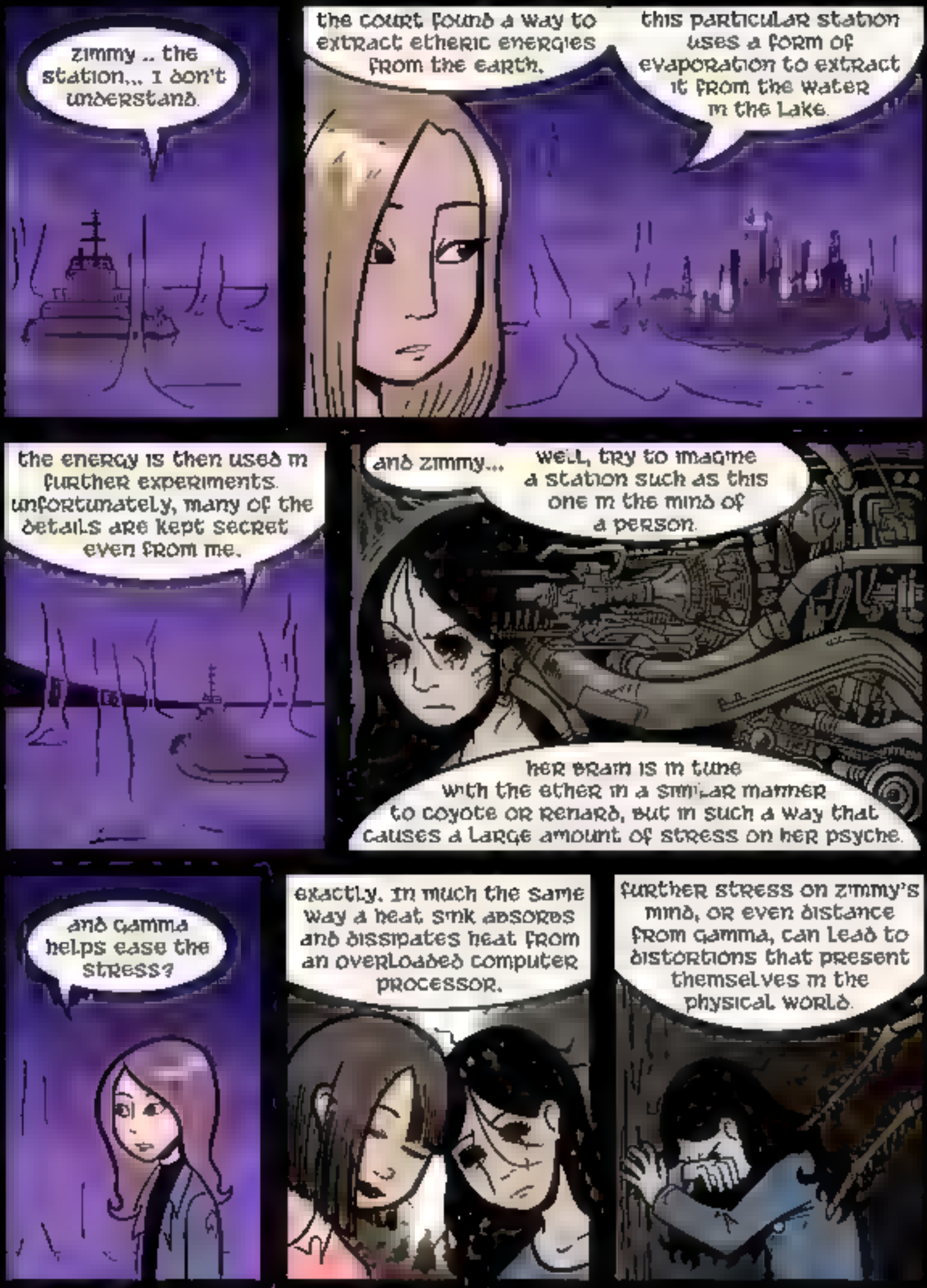

What's going on here?!
hey, you...
please! you have to help my friend!
please help him!
Wha
Is that... Renard?

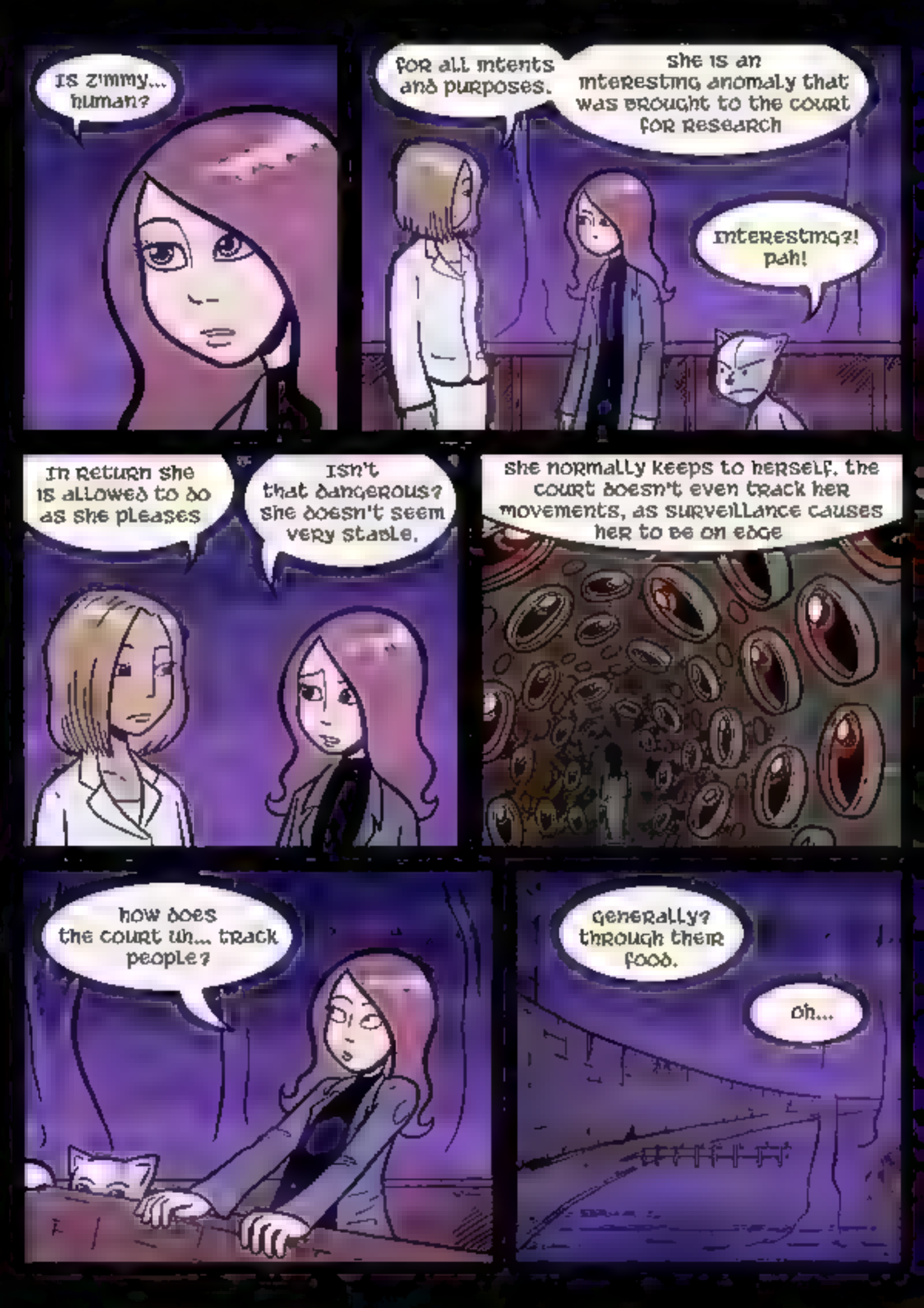
that looks like anja donlan's binding program.
should we call her?
no! don't do that!
uh... then maybe eglamore?
no! not him either!
hey! you're not the one calling the shots here!
please! can't you just call...
CRACK
CRUNCH
ms jones

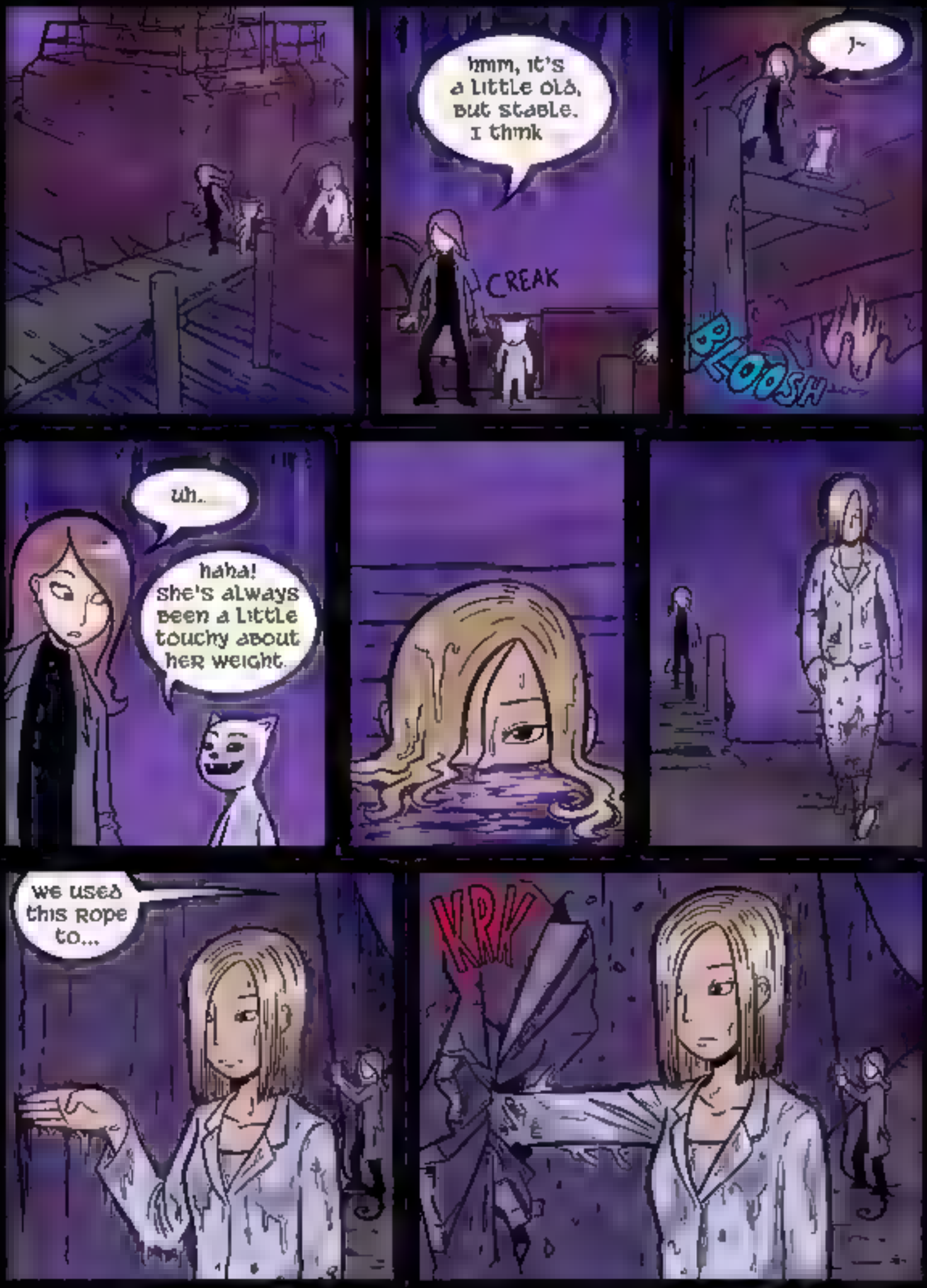
Reynardine! are you okay?
urff... my head...
ms jones, thank you I-I...
well done, antimony.
uh.
your assistance in locating jack has been invaluable
jones! you planned this all along?!
ah! using one of the students to get close to jack very clever.
oh uh... yes. I-it was no trouble.

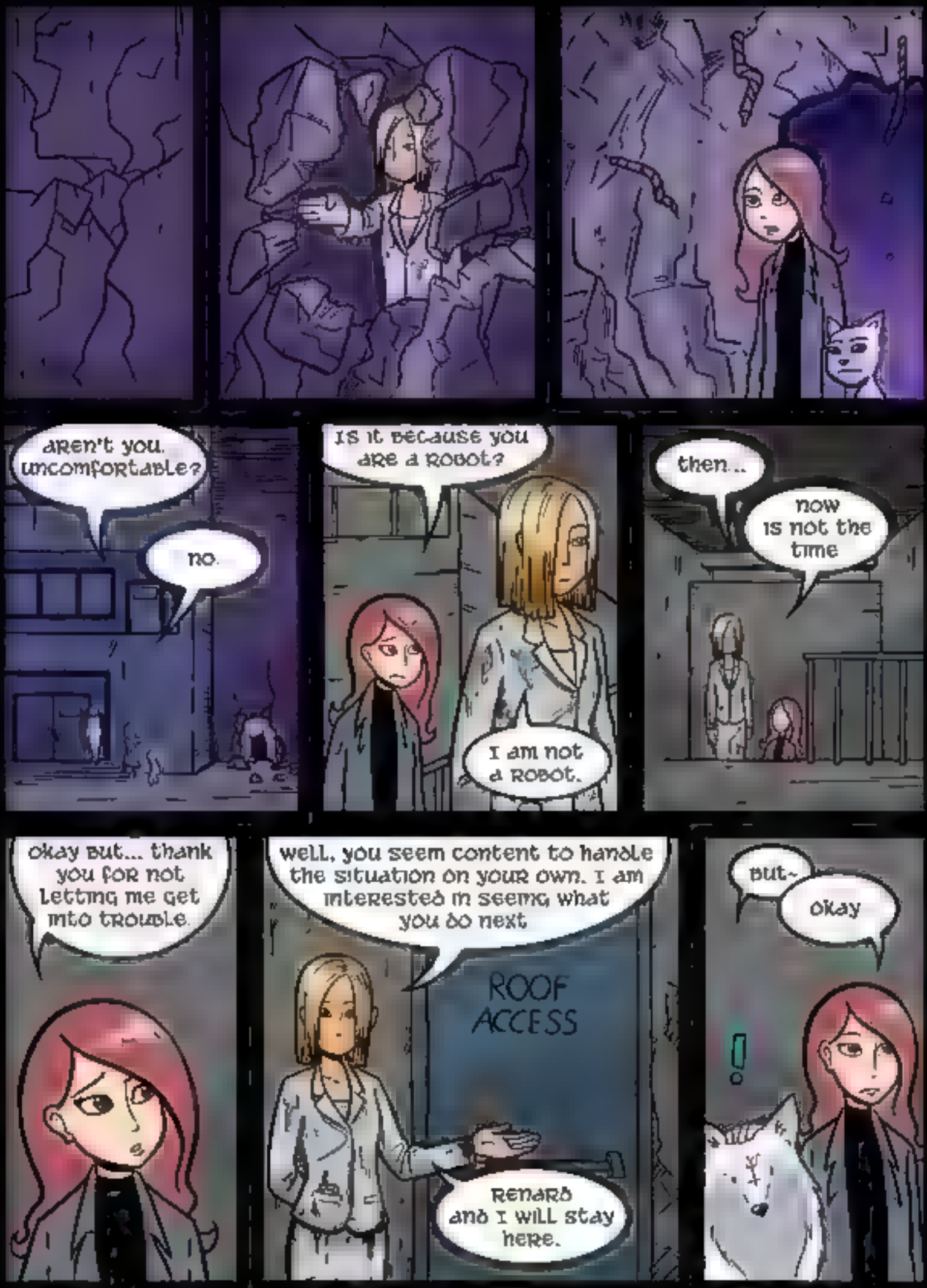

so where is young hyland now?
he's been hiding in a building next to the lake. I think he's going back there.
and I think... uh
I think he can fly.
that's crazy!
If she says he can fly, then he can fly
ah... of course
we will have to return to the boat. aata, please have some of your people man the ether station
I'm qualified to operate this facility.
as am I
shall we shut it all down?
no. jack started it for a reason, and I would like to find out why.


how do you feel, reynardine?
a little... better. if jones could just...
clutch me to her chest!
you're fine.
ahaha!
so, you feel jack was affected by his encounter with zimmy?
yes. I don't know him very well, but... he destroyed a robot without a second thought.
It's like he's a different person.
well, if the ether station drew zimmy out of him once, he has every reason to believe it will happen again.
are we going to stop him?
It will be far more interesting to see what happens if we don't
juliette, allow the station to enter the collection stage.
yes, jones.


zimmy .. the station... I don't understand.
the court found a way to extract etheric energies from the earth.
this particular station uses a form of evaporation to extract it from the water in the Lake.
the energy is then used in further experiments. unfortunately, many of the details are kept secret even from me.
and zimmy...
well, try to imagine a station such as this one in the mind of a person.
her brain is in tune with the ether in a similar manner to coyote or renard, but in such a way that causes a large amount of stress on her psyche.
and gamma helps ease the stress?
exactly. in much the same way a heat sink absorbs and dissipates heat from an overloaded computer processor.
further stress on zimmy's mind, or even distance from gamma, can lead to distortions that present themselves in the physical world.

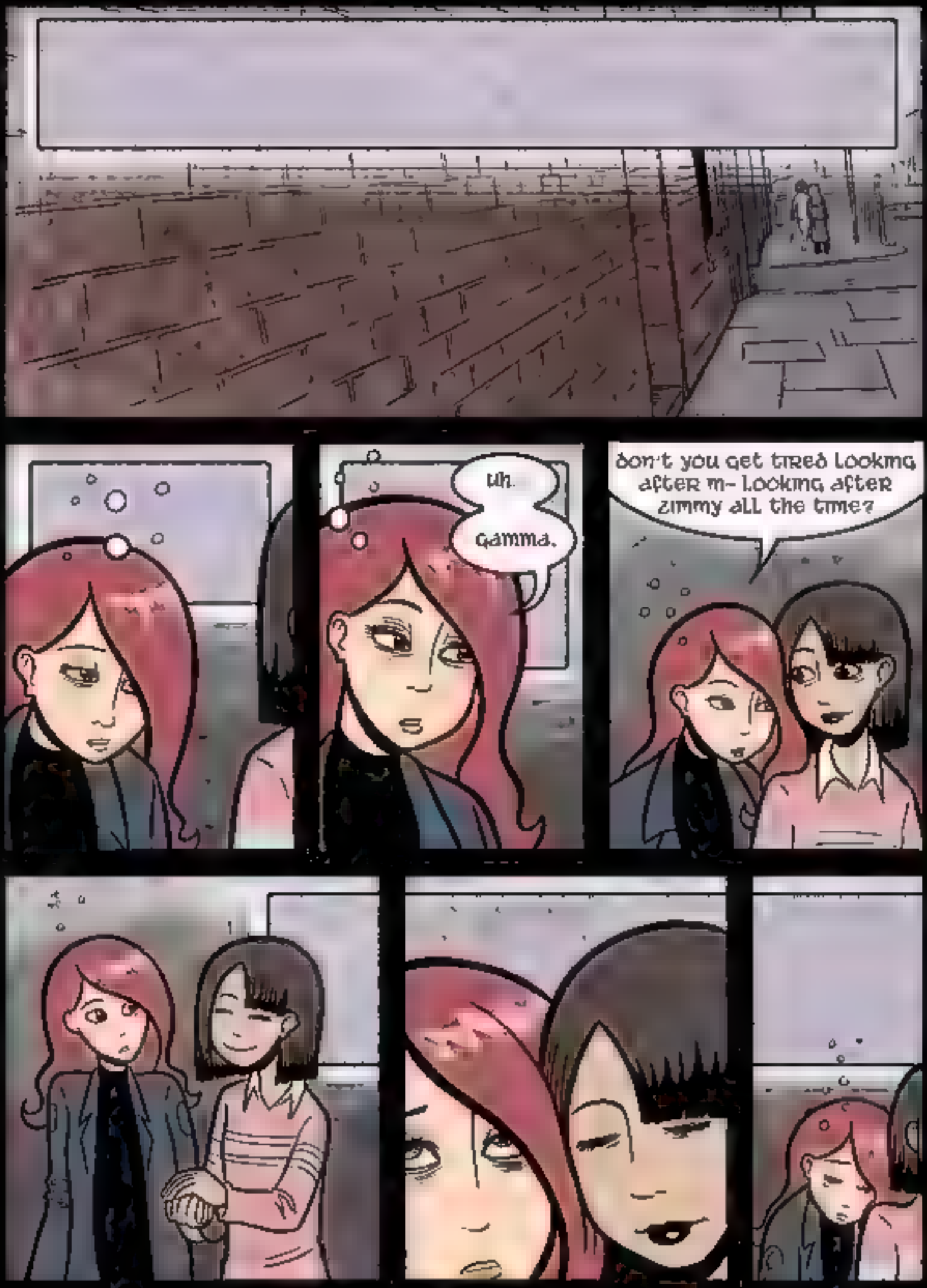

Is Zimmy... human?
for all intents and purposes.
She is an interesting anomaly that was brought to the court for research
Interesting?! Pah!
In return she is allowed to do as she pleases
Isn't that dangerous? She doesn't seem very stable.
She normally keeps to herself. the court doesn't even track her movements, as surveillance causes her to be on edge
how does the court uh... track people?
Generally? through their food.
oh...


hmm, it's a little old, but stable. I think
CREAK
)~
BLOOSH
uh..
haha! she's always been a little touchy about her weight.
we used this rope to...
KRK


aren't you uncomfortable?
no.
is it because you are a robot?
I am not a robot.
then...
now is not the time
okay but... thank you for not letting me get into trouble.
well, you seem content to handle the situation on your own. I am interested in seeing what you do next
ROOF ACCESS
renard and I will stay here.
but~
okay
!

Zimmy, wait!
Zi~
Oh, did you forget who you are again, Zimmy?
PAT PAT
Gamma! We have to find Zimmy!
Shall we go?

no, Gamma, it's me, a-annie.
oh, that's nice
there's a boy who's looking for zimmy.
he has grey hair and a green coat
oh, you mean the boy running towards the iron learning.
then you've seen him? we have to get to him before he finds zimmy!
I miss you when you are like this.
I hope you remember yourself soon
let's go and look for your friend!


uh.
Gamma.
don't you get tired looking after m- looking after zimmy all the time?

no! don't come any closer!
zimmy! are you okay?!
woah... so, are those guys real?
will they disappear if you touch them too?
is this the boy?
he's not a real person. just a memory of someone
um, hello?

uh...
oh SORRY. I'm tired.
I think.
haha, okay this is really funny. I don't know how you did it, but I'd like to go back...
why go back now?
jack!

just come inside!
wh-what is all this...
what does it mean?!
if you come inside you'll become better!
you'll see things differently'
not just in here .. but out there! in the real world!
the... real world?
oh no. we're all inside one of zimmy's illusions!

no! I don't want to go in there! It's the spider's nest!
come on! I-we have to help Jack!
Leave off! can't you see she's scared?!
no! zimmy!
zimmy!

come on, jack...
you're the last one we need!
don't listen to him, jack!
don't...

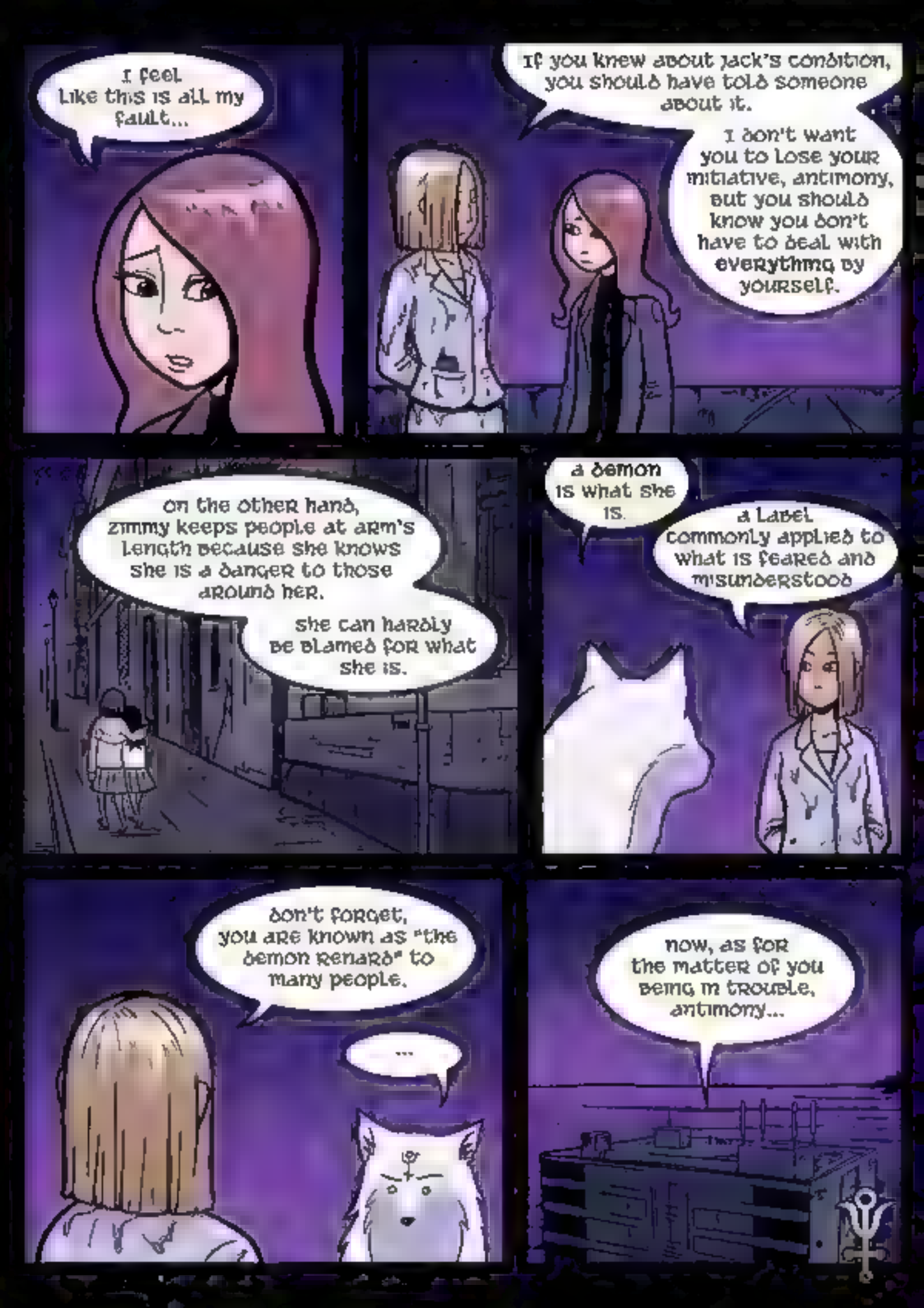
get away from her...
get away from her!
she's my friend!
she's my friend!
she's mine! she's my friend!
wha.
ah! no! not yet!

hey, maybe if you're not doing anything later you and me could.
SPLAT

STOMP
Look, he s gonna be fine. he just am't slept since that night.
uh... when he wakes up, tell him... I'm sorry. for not helpin' him sooner
I was going to tell him the same thing

what about you? will you be okay with those... things?
oh, don't worry 'bout them whitelegs. they're always tryin' to hitch a ride outta here.
your boyfriend there was just in the wrong place, y'know? but he put up a fight. he didn't go completely mental.
gamma thinks he might be able to do some of that stuff you guys do, y'know, that magical crap
don't understand it myself.
thank you, zimmy and gamma.
also: not my boyfriend.
heh, right.

Oh, aright, Jones. You look like a drowned rat.
Good to see you too, Zimmy. Gamma.
Boo!
hahaha!
I think he's going to be okay. He's sleeping.
If he was not fully in control of his actions, there should be little reason to punish him.
Did you make it rain?
Yes, I had them return the collected energy back into the air.
Rain has been shown to ease Zimmy's mind. It must be due to the natural presence of ether in the water.


I feel like this is all my fault...
If you knew about Jack's condition, you should have told someone about it.
I don't want you to lose your initiative, Antimony, but you should know you don't have to deal with everything by yourself.
On the other hand, Zimmy keeps people at arm's length because she knows she is a danger to those around her.
She can hardly be blamed for what she is.
A demon is what she is.
A label commonly applied to what is feared and misunderstood
Don't forget, you are known as "the demon Renard" to many people.
...
Now, as for the matter of you being in trouble, Antimony...

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 29:

A Bad Start

okay, how's that?
yes, it seems to work fine, kat.
RRR
hmm...
no. it's no good.
it's fine, really.
it's not fine!
it's too... complicated. too clunky!
the whole rig's a mess
clatter

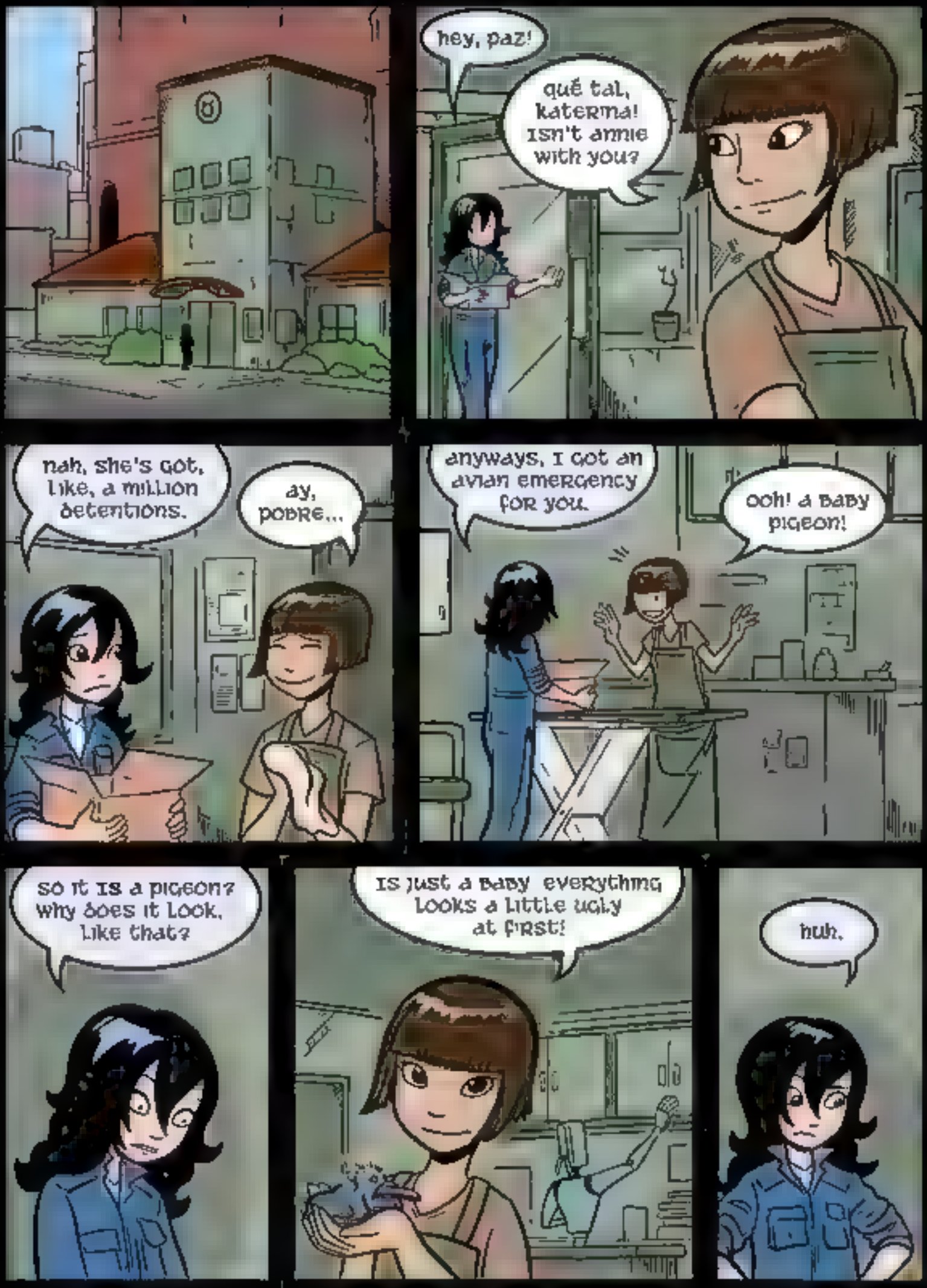
ah .. please, ms kat, use these...
huh? where'd this come from?
It is one of diego's original designs, we felt it would help you in your-
who asked you guys for help?
this stuff is trash.
stop hovering around all the time!
EEE EEE
EEE EEE
What is that?!
EEE EEE

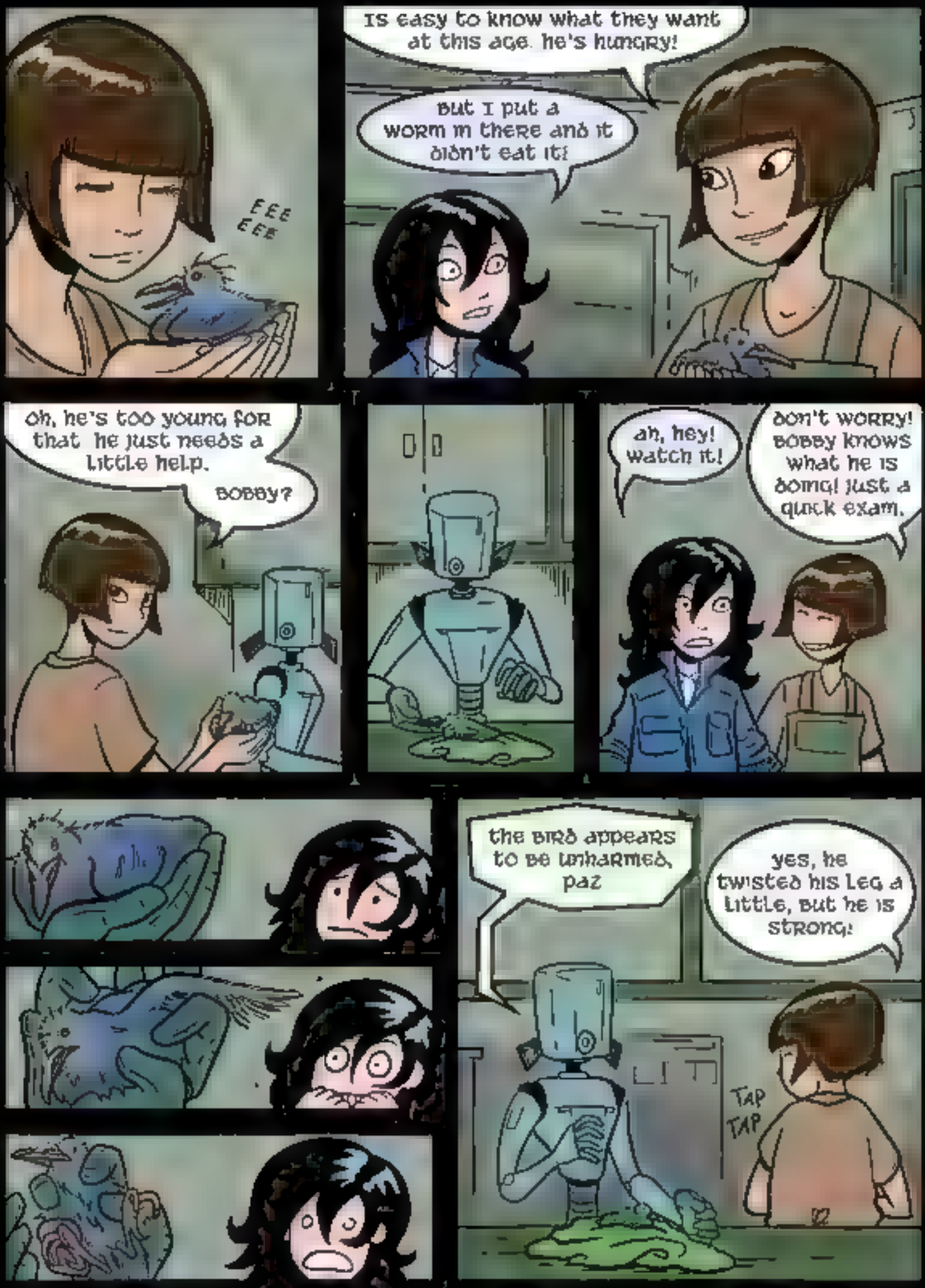
GEEE EEEP!
I-it's a... baby bird! uhh I think...
we will help it!
no! don't touch it! you'll hurt it, you clumsy bots!
Look, those must be the parents...
maybe it was trying to fly?
If we leave it, they might, I dunno, come down and get it

soon
you're still here?!
where's the parents go?
EEEP! EEEP!
EEE WAA!
come on, man, stop that.
GWAA!
EEEP!
jeez, you're ugly...

there, that ought to keep you busy.
EEE EEE
I better get you to paz. she'll know what your deal is
BAA! EEA!
ah! I'll come with you!
nah, I won't be long. just hang out in the rig there.

man, look at you.
did you get kicked out of your nest 'cos of how ugly you are?
why couldn't you be a cute bird like a stork or, I dunno, something cool looking?
your parents looked like pigeons, but you just look like a lump of chewed bubblegum
...
EEE EEE
how can you be so tiny and fragile?


hey, paz!
qué tal, katerma! isn't annie with you?
nah, she's got, like, a million detentions.
ay, pobre...
anyways, I got an avian emergency for you.
ooh! a baby pigeon!
so it is a pigeon? why does it look, like that?
is just a baby everything looks a little ugly at first!
huh.


EEE EEE
IS easy to know what they want at this age. he's hungry!
but I put a worm in there and it didn't eat it!
oh, he's too young for that he just needs a little help.
BOBBY?
ah, hey! watch it!
don't worry! BOBBY knows what he is doing! just a quick exam.
the bird appears to be unharmed, paz
yes, he twisted his leg a little, but he is strong!
TAP TAP

WOW! he's really going for it!
hey, what you got back here, paz?
NOTICE
oh, is all my mice.
I help look after them!
look at all these little guys!
are these, like, pets or something?
uhh...

BWOOO HOO-HOO!
PAZ HOW CAN YOU WORK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?! KNOWING WHAT THEY DO!
THEY ARE NOT ALL USED FOR TESTING! AND MANY OF THE TESTS ARE NON-INVASIVE! THEY STUDY BEHAVIOUR AND LEARNING PATTERNS.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT BETTER! THIS PLACE , THE WHOLE COURT THEY JUST DO WHAT'S BEST FOR THEMSELVES.
THEY DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE ELSE.
KAT... I KNOW IS NOT PERFECT. I WISH FOR A DAY WHEN WE DIDN'T NEED TO KEEP THESE MICE. BUT UNTIL THEN, I TRY TO MAKE LIFE COMFORTABLE FOR THEM.
AND THERE ARE VERY STRICT RULES AND LIMITATIONS. IS ALL VERY TIGHTLY SELF-REGULATED.
SELF-REGULATED?! THAT JUST MEANS THEY CAN DO WHAT THEY WANT!
NO! YOU SEE, TO DO THAT, THEY WOULD HAVE TO GET THROUGH ME FIRST.

the court isn't a big monster that does as it pleases, es a collection of people, working to do what they think is right
and, over time, other people see what is wrong, what mistakes were made, and work hard to fix them.
I cry too, when I find this place, but I ask to help, to change things and make them better.
what's the use?! the entire process is flawed, you can't just make it better
¿y el pichón?
that tiny, little, ugly thing? why did you bring him here? you could have left it to die.
maybe even kill it yourself to get rid of the problem.
is just a pigeon. nobody would know, or care
whaaa?! I-I could never do that!
thas right!
and with your help, and bobby and me, he will grow up to be beautiful!

I better get back now.
I got a stop to make along the way.
I come by here every morning before class. you can come too if you want.
oh I will! I'll bring annie along too, see how the little guy is getting along.
thank you, paz.
¡de nada!
and thank you, bobby.
you are welcome, angel.
no no, her name es kat.

oh, and she just left you like this?
yes, when she took the bird to ms. cadena-blanco
well, kat has been very... distracted lately.
hey guys.
it could be some kind of test...
not a test, just me being a butt.

kat! you cut your hair!
heh, yeah.
jeez, I'm sorry I left you like this, robot. I'll get you back in your body real quick.
no need to apologise!
is everything all right, kat? robot told me about the bird.
yeah. look, I know I've been a bit of a nightmare recently...
oh, kat...
but I feel a lot better now!
and tomorrow, you and me got a date with a bird called city face!
what kind of name is city face?
haha! I thought of it when I was on the tram!

there you go!
oh, have you guys seen a couple of little bots running around?
ah, there you are.
listen, I need you to look after this stuff for me. all of diego's old work, I need you guys to take care of it cos I can't use them right now.
but I might need them one day.
I had an amazing idea.